WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 7, NO. 6 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | OCTOBER 1996

"I don't care what diplomacy dictates. We have to stand up for our communities, to fight for them in new and different ways." Maxine Waters

Homeless Services Committee to meet soon, overflow shelter for families may open earlier

Homeless Problems Heats Up as Temperature Goes Down

Greg Hohnholt

At a September 16th meeting of the Housing Task Force (HTF), the problem of where to shelter an increasing number of homeless families and single men was once again a hot topic. Representatives from such organizations as the Housing Authority of Thurston County, Bread & Roses (B&R), the Salvation Army, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), and Emergency Habitat, in addition to several individual housing advocates, spent the 90 minute meeting sharing immediate concerns and coordinating their efforts to be eligible for federal McKinney funds for next year. Regular readers of this publication are probably familiar with Olympia's *seasonal homeless crisis*s. 1996 provides little contrast from previous years, judging from the discussion at this meeting. And what contrast does exist appears to be all bad.

Funds and support for additional emergency shelter are, according to Rick Hoonan of Emergency Habitat, in doubt. Bread & Roses representative Kendra Cox stated that the drop-in is getting *three calls a day* from families and individuals seeking emergency housing. Cherie Ganya, an Associated Ministries representative, told a similar story; lots of calls, but little in the way of resources to provide. She stated that she would try to get the overflow shelter system up and running before the usual start-up date of November 1, but that she "wasn't making any promises."

The chairman of the Homeless Services Committee (HSC), Dick Hinkle, said that he will call an emergency meeting in early to mid-October to address these immediate concerns. Life-threatening policy change Hinkle also announced that the Salvation Army was reneging on its previous year's pledge to let in men in out of freezing weather, regardless of whether these men had been placed on the local shelter's controversial *denial list* for nonviolent offenses (violent offenders are permanently barred). According to Hinkle, the Salvation Army felt that "letting men [on the denial list] in out of the cold weather undermines their policy of helping people to help themselves." He added that the Salvation Army "let men [on the denial list] in out of the cold weather last year, but [they felt that] it didn't work."

According to Hinkle, the Salvation Army felt that "letting men [on the denial list] in out of the cold weather undermines their policy of helping people to help themselves."

At press time, there were over 200 men on the Salvation Army denial list, according to reliable sources. Right now, there is no shelter for these men, or, for that matter, the many homeless disabled men in Olympia (the Salvation Army is not wheelchair accessible). The recent closing of the Mission of Hope shelter, which took in both men on the denial list and disabled men, makes this winter's homeless crisis particularly life-threatening.

The Mission of Hope was closed last month by the city amidst allegations by Puget Power that it had not paid its utility deposit in a timely manner, and for other code violations. According to Kori Wilder, a VISTA volunteer working for LIHI, the Mission of Hope shelter had provided over 6700 bed nights to single men with virtually no funding.

The upstart Mission of Hope, which followed in the "direct action" footsteps traced by Pastor Sam Hochstatter and the now long de-

(Continued on outside coverpage)

The New Containment Policy

Jerome Johnson

Since the end of the Gulf War, the United States has used a modified containment policy toward Iraq. The policy consists of harsh sanctions, enforced no-fly zones, covert operations, terrorism and propaganda. It is designed to "bottle" Saddam's armed forces, foment domestic unrest and eventually overthrow him. Never mind the United Nations Charter, nor the fact that Saddam Hussein is the recognized leader of a sovereign nation which has neither declared war upon nor attacked the United States. Because the United States doesn't like Saddam, and because the U.S. is a superpower, it has once again donned its mantle of self-appointed Globocop.

In September, Saddam ordered his armed forces into northern Iraq, the Kurdish region, but still within his sovereign borders. At the invitation of one Kurdish faction, the Iraqi military helped it fight another Kurdish faction in the Irbil area and stood down after a few days' combat. In the process, the Iraqis and their Kurdish allies destroyed a CIA covert operation. Apparently, CIA agents were working with some Kurdish factions to organize an intelligence network which would grow into a resistance movement designed to overthrow Saddam Hussein. How a post-Saddam Iraq would look is still unclear, except for three basic scenarios:

1) The resistance leaders win after 2-5 years, and establish a pro-Western democracy with a free-market economy.

2) Autonomous regions for the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south, while central Iraq sorts itself out under U.N. auspices. This would be similar to the Bosnia mission, complete with peace-keeping troops in central Iraq.

Apparently, CIA agents were working with some Kurdish factions to organize an intelligence network which would grow into a resistance movement designed to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

3) A military junta overthrows Saddam. It is hoped by the U.S. a relatively "reasonable" (pro-U.S.) group of officers exists, similar to the group of German officers in World War II. They would make peace to spare Iraq further hardship. But even these wishful thinkers admit the very real possibility that such a junta could be even worse than Saddam.

As soon as the Iraqis rolled into Irbil, howls of rage and indignation erupted form the Beltway. Government officials, pundits and members of Congress were outraged at this police action inside Iraqi territory. No, they said, this was another example of terrible violence against the valiant (but helpless) Kurds by the evil Saddam Hussein.

Never mind the fact that -- like it or not -- a Kurdish faction invited Saddam's forces. And never mind Saddam's legal right to put down insurrection fomented by foreign agents, an unprovoked act of war against Iraq by the United States. Clinton's knee jerked, and he ordered a cruise missile strike. Nearly fifty missiles, in two attacks, hit targets in

(Continued page 14)

U.S. Congress
1-800-765-4440

"If factory workers had received pay raises between 1980 and 1995 comparable to CEOs, they would now be paid $90,000 per year. If the minimum wage had risen like CEO pay, minimum wage workers would now receive almost $39,000 per year."

Frank Parente

Basic Health Plan
call to enroll
1-800-826-2444

LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Why Frankendole?

Dear Editor:

I wish to comment on the "Cut The Crap" section in your September 1996 issue of Works In Progress. For the life of me, I cannot figure out why you would publish the article "Frankendole Cometh" by the Reverend? Laurian Weisser.

I picked up my first copy of WIP at the Barnes & Noble bookstore near Capital Mall last Sunday, partially because I am intrigued by any newspaper that seems to possess a degree of fairness (and because it was free.) I saw the nice quote on the front page by M.A. Sommer: "As long as people live in a complete darkness of ignorance, they have no understanding of the oppression and wrong inflicted upon them by those in power." I saw the remarkably unusual article (for this area) that not only refused to treat Bill Clinton as a hero of the liberal cause, but laid out, in a very factual and non-sensational manner, the reasons Jerome Johnson will not vote for Mr. Clinton again ("Clinton's Callousness", front page). Kudos to Mr. Johnson for writing such a clear, mature article.

Then I saw the article "Frankendole Cometh" in the "Cut The Crap" section. At first I read it with bemusement, figuring that it was intended only to be humorous. The editor's note at the lead mentioned the article was in response to other articles, which unfortunately I have not had the opportunity to read. However, I cannot recall the last time I have seen an article in any paper, by any writer (excepting Dave Barry, of course) that was so blatantly sophomoric and sensationalistic. Nowhere in this essay did the Reverend? Weisser make any reference to fact, to truth, or to any thing other than the flotsam of [his] own imagination. Granted, I don't believe Bob Dole is the ideal Presidential candidate. I, like many people, am not really enthusiastic about either major candidate this election year, and wish that better options were available. However, like many, I am sick of trying to make an informed decision on a candidate and encountering immature ravings in the press. If you truly want to "Cut The Crap", I would suggest finding writers for your column that are willing to write in a mature, factually-oriented manner. Reverend? Weisser's ravings are more suitable for an elementary-school playground, not a paper that claims to "encourage a participatory democracy" (mission statement, page 2).

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Homan

Mixed Economy

To the editor,

Contrary to Don Busky's charge [Sept. '96 WIP] -- which smacks of red-baiting -- that I was "borrowing from the language of the Marxist-Leninist," when using the term "social democratic" to describe the Israeli Labor Party, my intention, rather, was to signify that Israel has a "mixed economy." In other words, "capitalism" to us Dave Zink's image, "with a human face." And I join Mr. Busky in "wish[ing] that the United States had such a mixed economy."

According to Mr. Busky, "[t]he Israeli Labor Party has long considered itself socialist." And if the Labor Party "calls itself socialist, who are we to say they are not?" For proof of the Labor Party's Contention, Mr. Busky offers Israel's "socialized medicine...cooperative sector..." and other "democratic socialist achievements."

Okay. I submit to Mr. Busky on this point. If the Israeli Labor Party claims to be socialist, then I will not argue to the contrary. Unless, of course, its leaders change their minds and allow the hard-won democratic socialist achievements to be drawn into the ocean of the global market economy.

Moving along, I see that Don Busky still clings to his unwarranted (and volatile) position that "anti-Jewish forces" prevent Israel from making peace with its Arab neighbors. In fact, as all honest observers understand, it has been the United States (Democrats and Republicans), and its junior partner Israel (Labor and Likud) which have done the most to prevent a peaceful settlement -- within the framework of the International Consensus -- in the Middle East. By parrotting US/Israeli rejectionist propaganda, Mr. Busky contributes to the dangerous situation in the region.

Greg Bye

Open Letter

More Support for AIDS

Dear Mariella Cummings,
AIDS Director
State Department of Health

Recently, a serious crisis created by the Washington State Department of Health was narrowly averted; a crisis that should not have occurred. In mid-July, your department panicked and refused to accept new enrollments to the AIDS Prescription Drug Program (APDP) because you predicted that the department was about to run out of money.

Further, you also announced that you would be unable to fund the new, and possibly life-saving combination drug therapies, including protease inhibitors which received such optimistic reports at the 11th International AIDS Conference in Vancouver, BC, in June.

For the people with HIV and AIDS, the APDP has improved their lives and literally extended the lives of many. As you know, the program has provided access to prescription drugs for many low-income people; it has allowed people with partial or no insurance coverage to choose what they believe to be the best possible treatment for their condition.

On August 14, the state re-opened the enrollment for the APDP. According to the *Seattle P-I*, Governor Lowry committed $5 million to this desperately needed program. Unfortunately, we know this is just a temporary measure because Lowry's emergency funding will last only a short time.

The Stonewall Committee would like to know how the Health Department plans to guarantee uninterrupted, *long-term* funding for everyone who needs the AIDS Prescription Drug Program. What plans have you made to provide funding when the emergency money runs out? You have gained a little time because of the emergency funds, and we expect you to have better planning and solutions in mind than the bureaucratic expediency of simply closing enrollments and shutting down programs whenever your budget gets tight.

The Stonewall Committee sees one permanent solution to the question

WIP Schedule

Submission deadline:
Friday, Oct 18th
Meeting place TBA

Call 705-2726 for info.

Proofreading Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 pm
Meeting place TBA

Advertising Info

⇨ Dave Campbell
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WORKS IN PROGRESS

Mission Statement: "Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause: We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

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Dave Zink

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Correspondence/articles are always welcome. Articles on disk (text preferred). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

UPDATES & BRIEFS

we just posed to you: universal healthcare. By universal healthcare we mean access to free, quality healthcare for all residents of Washington State. This is the only compassionate and humane solution for the as yet unresolved healthcare crisis in this country. Quality healthcare should be a right, not a privilege.

We strongly urge the Department of Health to lift its sights higher than the bottom line of the balance sheets and take on a genuine leadership role in advocating for this visionary -- and very possible -- change that would give healthcare to all.

As a practical first step we suggest you address the high cost of drugs for people who are HIV positive. Require the pharmaceutical companies that do business with the state to open their books, publish the salaries of their CEOs and top management, and reveal their profits earned from the sale of prescription drugs.

We are convinced that if government can finance a universal highway system, it can also decide to finance universal healthcare.

If the Washington State Department of Health is serious about ensuring access to quality medical care, it must become an active proponent of such long-term solutions as universal healthcare and not confine itself to temporary, self-congratulatory quick fixes. We anxiously hope you'll provide the clarity of purpose needed to see us through the AIDS crisis and usher in a future of excellent healthcare available to all.

In solidarity,
Chris Smith, Chair
Stonewall Committee for Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Transgender Rights
Dr. Robert McCrosky, M.D.

Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County

Fall Grant Cycle Begins

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County is pleased to announce our Fall grant funding cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities. Grants will be considered for amounts up to $1,000. The deadline for completed grant applications is Friday, October 11th, 1996. Grant presentations to the Sustaining Fund Board will be on Saturday, November 2nd. Grant criteria and application forms are available on request at Thousand Cranes Futons and Furniture (416 Capitol Way, Olympia), by calling 866-1816, or by writing to CSF, 2103 Harrison NW, Suite 2715, Olympia, WA 98502.

The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County provides grant support for progressive, community-oriented projects in the county. The Sustaining Fund was formed in 1987 in response to the lack of money available for developing and maintaining local social change and environmental activities. We support groups and individuals who are actively working to educate and involve this community in challenging and correcting the social, political and economic inequities around us.

Grants are awarded twice a year for such organizational needs as equipment, training, public outreach, start-up funding, and special projects. We also provide matching funds with local governments. The Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County has granted $32,422 since forming in 1987. Funding comes from individual donations and business supporters. We invite you to support the businesses that support the Sustaining Fund: Eastside Women's Health, Moore Trees & Co., Olympia Film Society, Olympia Food Co-op, Orca Books, Radiance Herbs & Massage, Red Apple Natural Foods, Sherwood Press, Thomas Carr Painting, Thousand Cranes Futons, Wild Side Nature Store.

For Judith Curren
Another Kevorkian Victim
(40 dead and counting)
by Not Dead Yet Sarah Light

mister murder
arrogant with compassion
all hail

it was for her own good
she didn't want to be a burden
mercy

so civilized now
sleek with pity
the man beckons
is this all there is?
to march in techno lockstep
in the patriarchal parade
in a world such as this
who wouldn't want to .....?

kill
or be killed
choose your poison
your questions already have answers
one way ticket
one way out

in his name
in his definition
in his world view (that hall of mirrors)
he is everything
counsel jury judge executioner
all hail
busy busy man
leaves the bodies behind
in his world
mercy
the only freedom is death

what is our disability?
is it our individual sin
to be pitied
paraded on telethons
and otherwise kept out of sight
or is it his world
that disables us
toxic workplace
chemical fields

corporate greed
the discriminating eye
that demands order
uniform and bland
little boxes punching time clocks
look one way act one way move
one way think one way feel one way
or risk being OTHER
fancy trick that convince the other it is their isolated
shame and then so sleekly purring with pity
kill them

but we are not alone
we can find each other
varied
resplendent
endlessly intriguing

all the ways we move
express love breathe live

we can cooperate
accommodate
create
equal access
universal
commonplace
matter of fact
we can celebrate our radical selves
and each radical other

and when in pain we can have
choices
countless choices
not simply isolation or
death

outside the hall of mirrors
there is wind of change
fire of renewal
water of healing
earth of common sense

common people
people with disabilities
we breathe
love
express
move
and live

For information on a new grassroots resistance group Not Dead Yet contact
Not Dead Yet
c/o Progress Center
320 Lake St.
Oak Park, IL 60302
(708) 524-0600
fax 708-524-1640

Cans and Coats

An Americorps sponsored food and clothing drive will coincide with the 1996-97 Americorps kick-off ceremony to be held at the Washington State Capitol Rotunda on October 25th 1996 from 9am - noon.

Americorps programs in Washington will gather at the Capitol Rotunda bringing together over 400 Americorps members to be sworn in for a year of service benefiting the communities and people of Washington. Coinciding with this event will be food and clothing drive to kick-off the season of giving and gather thousands of pounds of food and hundreds of coats to be donated to Northwest Harvest. A Northwest Harvest truck will be at the kick-off as well as 25 OUTSTANDING YOUTH who have worked to serve the communities of Washington during the past year.

Conservationist Richard Leakey to speak in Olympia

How can human beings help or hurt life on the planet in the 21st Century? Famed fossil hunter Richard Leakey will speak on the future of conservation when he presents "Conservation and Wildlife Toward the Third Millennium" October 17th at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts.

Leakey first gained world-wide fame following in the footsteps of his father paleoanthropologist Louis Leakey. But in the late 1980s he turned from fossils to conservation. From 1989 to 1994, as Director of Kenya Wildlife Service, Leakey took up the battle to preserve that country's rich wildlife and has helped found a new political party in opposition to the current Kenyan government.

It begins at 7:30 pm and tickets cost $20 and $18 ($18 and $16 for students and seniors.) Leakey appears as the first event in Future Tense, a series of forward-looking events co-presented by South Puget Sound Community College and US Communications.

From War to Peace

ITAMA Efforts with Jose "Chencho" Alas, Salvadoran Community Development Expert

Friday, October 18th @ 7 - 9pm
Olympia Community Center,
Room 205 • 222 N. Columbia St.

Jose Alas is the founder and international representative of the Salvadoran Institute of Technology, Environment and Self Sufficiency (ITAMA). ITAMA works to empower impoverished communities in war-torn El Salvador and provide environmentally appropriate, sustainable development options. Current projects include community gardens, iguana and chicken farms, clean water sources and composting toilets, shrimp aquaculture, salt processed from sea water, reforestation, microenterprise projects, environmental education and local Zones of Peace.

Jose Alas is a Salvadoran who had served as an advisor to Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. He initiated the Base Community model that facilitated the organization and empowerment of poor people. It is a model that is still used in poor countries to provide for human needs, dignity, and power from the base or bottom rather than top-down.

For more information call 491-7050.

State Legislative Candidates

The Capitol Chapter of AARP is proud to announce that it will hold a candidates' forum on October 28th. All candidates for State House and Senate seats in the 20th, 22nd, and 35th legislative districts who survive the primary have been invited to attend.

The meeting will start at 10am in the new Group Health Cooperative building at 700 Lilly Rd SE, about 1/4 mile past St. Peter Hospital. Enter the Main Entrance and take the stairs or elevator to the second floor. Call 438-3864 for more info.

Local Currency

Creating Ecological Economics

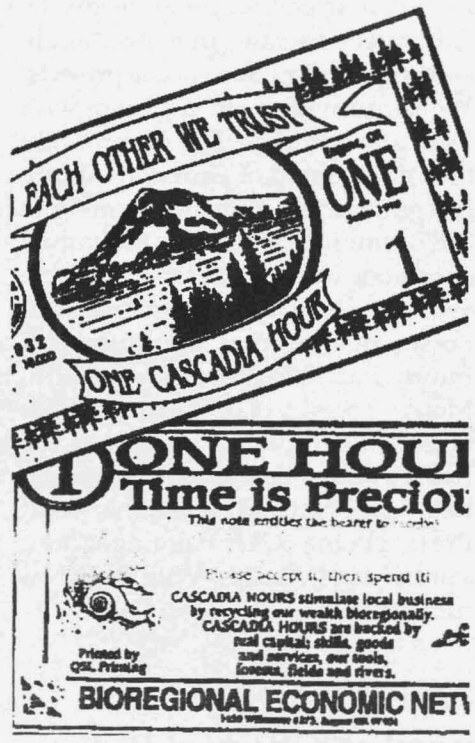
Paul Glover

Here in Ithaca, New York, we've begun to gain control of the social and environmental effects of commerce by issuing over $50,000 of our own local paper money, to over 950 participants, since 1991. Thousands of purchases and many new friendships have been made with this cash, and about $500,000 of local trading has been added to the Grassroots National Product. We printed our own money because we watched Federal dollars come to town, shake a few hands, then leave to buy rainforest lumber and fight wars. Ithaca's HOURs, by contrast, stay in our region to help us hire each other. While dollars make us increasingly dependent on multinational corporations and bankers, HOURS reinforce community trading and expand commerce which is more accountable to our concern for ecology and social justice.

Here's how it works : the Ithaca HOUR is Ithaca's $10.00 bill, because ten dollars per hour is the average of wages/salaries in Tompkins County. These HOUR notes, in four denominations, buy plumbing, carpentry, electrical work, roofing, nursing, chiropractic, child care, car and bike repair, food, eyeglasses, firewood, gifts, and thousands of other goods and services. Our credit union accepts them for mortgage and loan fees. People pay rent with HOURS. The best restaurants in town take them, as do movie theaters, bowling alleys, two large locally-owned grocery stores, and thirty farmer's market vendors. Ithaca's new HOURly minimum wage lifts the lowest paid up without knocking down higher wages. For example, several of Ithaca's organic farmers are paying the highest farm labor wages in the Western Hemisphere: $10.00 of spending power per HOUR. These farmers benefit by the HOUR's loyalty to local agriculture. On the other hand, dentists, massage therapists and lawyers charging more than the $10.00 average per hour are permitted to collect several HOURS hourly. But we hear increasingly of professional services provided for our equitable wage.

Everyone who agrees to accept HOURS is paid two HOURS ($20.00) for being listed in our newsletter Ithaca Money. Every eight months they may apply to be paid an additional two HOURS, as reward for continuing participation. This is how we gradually and carefully increase the per capita supply of our money. Ithaca Money's 1,200 listings, rivaling the Yellow Pages, are a portrait of our community's capability, bringing into the marketplace time and skills not employed by the conventional market. Residents are proud of income gained by doing work they enjoy. We encounter each other as fellow Ithacans, rather than as winners and losers scrambling for dollars. The Success Stories of 250 participants published so far testify to the acts of generosity and community that our system prompts. We're making a community while making a living. As we do so, we relieve the social desperation which has led to compulsive shopping and wasted resources.

We printed our own money because we watched Federal dollars come to town, shake a few hands, then leave to buy rainforest lumber and fight wars.


EACH OTHER WE TRUST
ONE
ONE CASCADIA HOUR
ONE HOU
Time is Preciou
CASCADIA HOURS stimulate local business by recycling our wealth bioregionally.
CASCADIA HOURS are backed by real capital: skills, goods and services, our tools, forests, fields and rivers.
Printed by QSL Printing
BIOREGIONAL ECONOMIC NETW

At the same time Ithaca's locally-owned stores, which keep more wealth local, make sales and get spending power they otherwise would not have. And over $4000 of local currency has been donated to 20 community organizations so far, by the Barter Potluck, our wide-open governing body.

As we discover new ways to provide for each other, we replace dependence on imports. Yet our greater self-reliance, rather than isolating Ithaca, gives us more potential to reach outward with ecological export industry. We can capitalize new businesses with loans of our own cash. HOUR loans are made without interest charges.

We regard Ithaca HOURS as real money, backed by real people, real time, real skills and tools. Dollars, by contrast, are funny money, backed no longer by gold or silver but by less than nothing -- $4.5 trillion of national debt. Ithaca's money honors local features we respect, like native flowers, powerful waterfalls, crafts, farms and our children. Dollars honor slave holders (Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Jackson) and the monuments of corporate government. Multi-colored HOURS, some printed on locally-made watermarked cattail (marsh reed) paper, all with serial numbers, are harder to counterfeit than dollars. Local currency is a lot of fun, and it's legal—HOURS are taxable income when traded for professional goods or services.

Local currency is also lots of work and responsibility. To give other communities a boost, we've been providing a Hometown Money Starter Kit. The Kit explains step-by-step start-up and maintenance of an HOURS system, and includes forms, laws articles, procedures, insights, samples of Ithaca's HOURs, and issues of Ithaca Money. We've sent the Kit to over 300 communities in 45 states so far, and our example is becoming national.

To get one, send $25.00 (2.5 HOURS option in NY) or $35 from abroad, to - Ithaca Money, Box 6578, Ithaca, NY. 14851, USA Email - ITHACAHOUR @aol.com The IthacaHOUR Homepage can be accessed at:[http://www.publiccom/web/ithacahour/]

Local Currency Sound Hours

Pat Holm

Sound Exchange is creating a local currency in the south Sound area. We are modeling our project after the Ithaca Hour in Ithaca, New York. Ithaca HOURS have been in circulation for 5 years and have added $1,500,000 to the local economy in that time. Sound Exchange has received a grant from the Community Sustaining Fund to support our start-up and first printing. We expect to launch our currency and directory of members early this fall. Paul Glover started the Ithaca Hour and his ideas are reprinted below.

The first introduction to the community will be at ArtWalk, the night of October 4. Members of the group will be strolling the streets with sandwich boards displaying local artist's versions of what the *Sound Hour* could look like. We will be asking for your vote to help determine the best design. We will then engage a local printer to begin printing denominations of a 1 HOUR/$10 bill , a 1/2 hour/$5 bill,and a 1/10 HOUR/ $1 bill.

There are many reasons why we are starting a local currency:

1) to encourage local people to buy local goods and services;

2) to increase local buying power by putting more money into the local economy;

3) to place value on our relationships and interactions with people rather than impersonal relationships in chain stores where profits leave the local community; and

4) to encourage people to think about the exchange of an hour's work being equal to another person's hour of work.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with helping this idea become reality, please contact Joanne Lee at 352-3856. Hey, it is legal to own and circulate local currency as long as it does not look like Federal Reserve notes. Also, start thinking about what kind of service you might want to put in the catalog of available goods and services in our community.

"The stone in the water does not know how hot the hill is, parched by the sun."

– Nigerian proverb

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From the Inside Out

Truth Inc. and Organized Crime

Dan Pens

Ten years ago I sat across the table from a man in the prison chow hall. I'd seen him around and he looked like an interesting person. My instincts were good on that one. He turned out to be one of the more interesting people I've met in my fifteen years of imprisonment. His name is Ed Mead.

I placed my tray on the table across from Ed and took a seat. We exchanged hellos and I began to eat. Looking for an icebreaker, I noticed a small pin on his lapel. I had to squint a little to make out the white letters etched in green plastic. It said, "Capitalism is Organized Crime." This struck me as rather odd. I asked him what it meant. I can't remember his reply, but I recall having the impression that Ed was an interesting and intelligent person. But. But he was definitely some kind of political whacko. I mean, come on. Organized Crime is what the Mafia does. What does that have to do with Capitalism?

I became a regular at that table in the chow hall, and over the years Ed and I became close friends. Our friendship developed in an unhurried manner, typical of the way relationships in prison form. Nobody's in a big hurry in prison. You choose your friends well or you live to regret it.

When I met Ed I was a card-carrying member of the American Apathist Party. Ed was a Communist. That was another odd thing about him, but I didn't let it bother me. I like to be intellectually challenged, and Ed rarely disappointed me. No matter what the topic of conversation, I could always count on Ed to say something radical and provocative. I'd rise to the bait and attempt to engage him in debate. After a very brief exchange, though, Ed would grow impatient.

"You don't know what you're talking about," he'd say. "I refuse to discuss this any further as long as you insist on remaining ignorant." I thought he was being cagey with me. He had urged me to read some of his books and publications, but I'd always declined. I finally relented, though. He'd challenged me one time too many.

"Okay," I said after one of our chow hall debates ground to a premature halt. "You say I don't know what I'm talking about. I don't want to read *The Communist Manifesto*, but I'll have a look at one of those newspapers you get."

He started me off with the San Francisco *Guardian*. This was during the height of the Sandanista/Contra struggle in Nicaragua. I'd watch Dan Rather on the Evening News and listen to what he had to say about "America's interests," about how the contras were "Freedom Fighters," every bit as brave and honorable as the Founding Fathers of the American Revolution. By golly, the way Dan Rather explained it on TV, it was a no brainer. The brave, dedicated Contras were clearly the Good Guys. Those Sandinistas were a bunch of commie thugs.

The next day I'd read pretty much the same coverage in the *Seattle Times*. A week later I'd read the same thing all over again in *Newsweek*. Then I'd read the radically different coverage in the *Guardian*.

It didn't take too long for me to figure out that the TV and newspaper coverage was misleading and superficial at best. The *Guardian*'s coverage of the same events was in depth, well documented, hard-hitting, factual, incisive, professionally written and clearly superior. It also presented a panoply of factual information that was omitted by the corporate media. The Guardian painted an entirely different picture of the Sandinistas, Contras, and of the United State's role in the region. My whole viewpoint began to shift. I mean, it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the corporate media was printing propaganda and the alternative press was printing the news.

No matter what the topic of conversation, I could always count on Ed to say something radical and provocative.

I began to view Ed as less of a whacko and more as mentor. I asked him how it could be. How could the corporate media – America's vaunted "Free Press" – print lies and get away with it? How could so many millions of Americans be so easily fooled?

Ed smiled. I was starting to get it. He urged me to read *Manufacturing Consent* by Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman. I did. Of all of the books I've read in my life, *Manufacturing Consent* influenced me as much as any other. It answered my questions about the corporate media. I've been hooked on the alternative press since.

Then the Iran Contra controversy broke. At first I was excited. Finally the truth would come out! Finally the great lie would be revealed to the American people. But I underestimated the power of the corporate media. The American people had been watching Dan Rather, reading the *Times* and flipping through *Newsweek* for too long. They had consumed the lies for so long that when bits of the truth finally came to light...the American public didn't believe any of it!

The Iran Contra affair fizzled out. The truth had its day in the sun, but the corporate press put it back to bed, tucked it in, and turned out the lights. This time I wasn't surprised or disillusioned as much as I was downright angry. The whole Iran Contra affair was blatantly criminal. Not only could the American ruling class operate a criminal enterprise on such a vast scale, but they could do it with impunity!

A couple of years later I was sitting across from Ed at lunch munching of a carrot and thinking about nothing in particular. My gaze happened to rest on the green and white pin on Ed's lapel. "Capitalism is Organized Crime," it said. Without even thinking about it, that statement made perfect sense. Then a bell went off in my head. Ding! Here I was reading that pin and casually thinking, "Yeah, you bet... Organized Crime. Couldn't have said it better myself."

How many people do you know today who are card carrying members of the American Apathist Party? Have you intellectually challenged any of them lately? Will you toss this publication into the recycle bin when you're finished with it? Or will you pass it along to a friend? Sometimes I wonder what I'd be doing today if I hadn't met Ed Mead and if he hadn't challenged me to start reading the alternative press.

That's all for this month. Until next time, greetings from the Gulag.

Dan Pens is co--editor of Prison Legal News. *A free sample of PLN is available upon request by writing to:*
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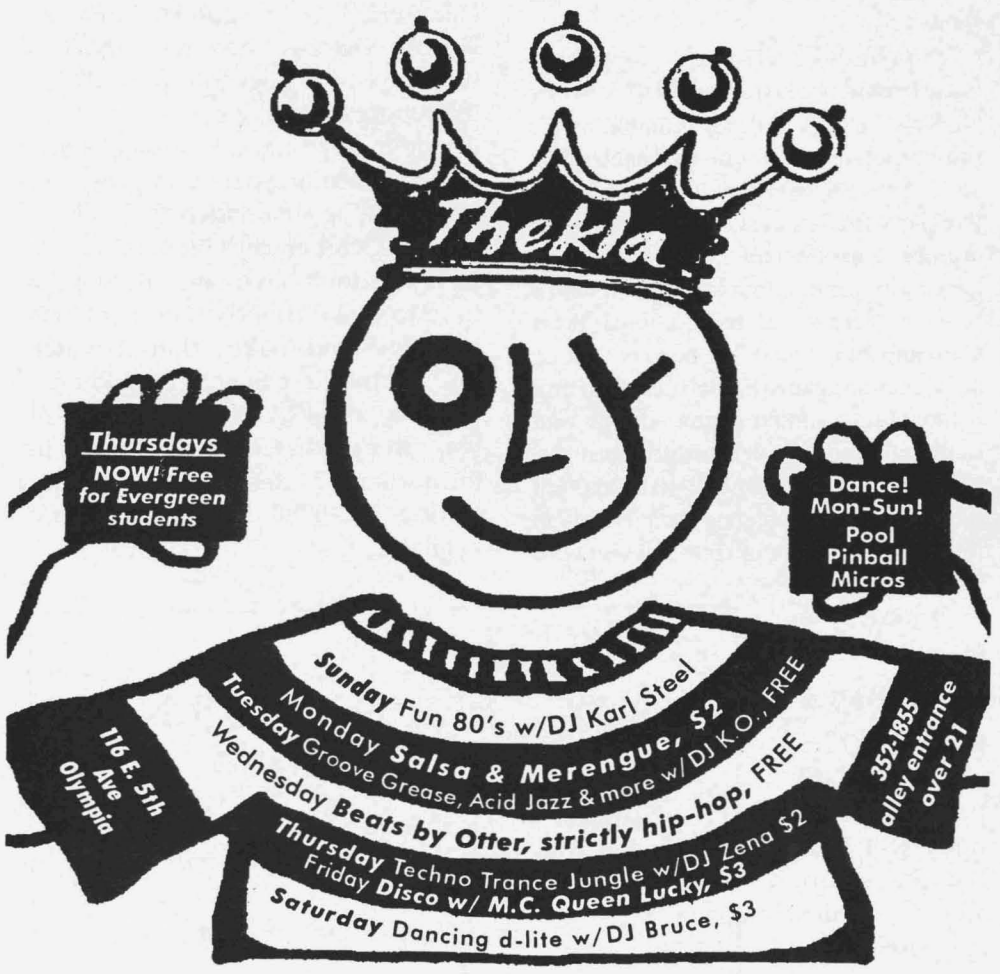
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CUT THE CRAP
Stop The CIA Cocaine Cartel
...and other stories

Greg Hohnholt

With election day looming, the crap starts flying fast and furious. The primary results, the Dick Morris laff riot, Dole's Gerald Ford impersonation, Clinton's campaign stops in Washington (carefully scheduled to avoid us nasty leftists in Olympia), Brian Baird's surprisingly strong run, and more. Rather that just pick one, we'll do this edition of C*T*C MTV style, in rough chronological order. The CIA/cocaine connection resurfaces Just as the September issue of *WiP* was going to press, investigative reporter Gary Webb published a three part series in the *San Jose Mercury News* entitled "Dark Allaince". It detailed how the CIA was involved in selling cocaine from Latin America to the street gangs of South Central Los Angeles throughout the 80's in exchange for money to buy weapons to finance the contra revolution in Nicaragua. If this sounds fantastic to you, evidently the *NY Times* agrees.

So far the story has only been picked up by the *Seattle Times* and, in a much more limited way, the *Washington Posst:*

The evidence that Webb has amassed, however, leaves little doubt of the CIA's involvement, despite CIA director John Deutch's repeated denials. Danilo Blandon and Norwin Meneses were leaders of the Fuente Democratica Nicauraguense (FDN), a contra, anti-socialist group run by the CIA during the 80's, and Blandon has testified to a grand jury in early 1994 about the CIA's management role in financing the contras.

Check out the evidence yourself on the internet (free access is available at the Timberland Library; call 352-0595 to reserve time). The URL is http://www.sjmercury.com/drugs .

And then, if you're as outraged as I am by this crap, call Newt Gingrich and demand that he open up an independent investigation (the CIA is conducting its own investigation right now, but we all know where that is going to go, right?) The D.C. directory number is (202) 225-3121. That will get you any representative on the Hill, so ask for Newt's office. If you're balking at calling, consider that your inaction only insures that the CIA strive to extend their intrusiveness into your private life and convictions all the more. And also consider that by making the call, you'll be in the company of Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Pentagon official Brian McCafferty, the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus, Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and other courageous, outraged individuals who realize what a threat to our democracy an unchallenged CIA represents. So cut the crap people.

C'mon, make the call. Thank you.

And then, if you're as outraged as I am by this crap, call Newt Gingrich and demand that he open up an independent investigation (the CIA is conducting its own investigation right now, but we all know where that is going to go, right?)

Boring debates

By the time you read this, the presidential debates will be wrapping up, but I don't need a Ouija board to tell you that they were boring as hell. In an amazing display of specious reasoning, the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), a "nonpartisan" board made up of D's and R's, said that Perot could not be let in the debates because he did not have a reasonable chance of winning. This is like saying that Mario Andretti does not have a reasonable chance of winning the Indy 500 because he is not to be allowed on the track.

I'm not especially crazy about Perot, but at least his inclusion would have mader Nader's chances to debate Clinton on his pro-corporate policies more tenable. The storm brewing over this obvious alternative party freeze out should provide a few crumbs of excitement, however. Natural Law Party candidate John Hagelin held a press conference at the National Press Club and announced that he was seeking an injunction against the debates, and Perot is mounting a similar action. If you want to direct your rage in a positive manner, call the CPD at (202) 872-1020 and tell them that you appreciate their efforts in transforming our nation into a two-headed autocracy.

Or just tell them to go to hell.

Brian Baird gets %

The big surprise of the primary was Brian Baird's strong showing against supposed shoo-in Linda Smith. Despite Smith's eleventh hour appeal to progressives with her spirited stand on campaign finance reform (she even got a nice write-up in *Mother Jones* magazine), and her noble vote against most favored nation trade status for China, it appears that her 95% voting record for the Contract with [Corporate] America in 1995 could be the millstone that sinks her chances for reelection. Still, Baird and his gutsy campaign staff has a lot of work to do before the general election; after all, 49% is still a minority.

Lewis county came out 2 to 1 for Smith, and Clark county, although less Republican, must yield several thousand more votes to put Baird over the top. My view is that the closeness of the election is due to our senior citizens voting against Smith rather than for Baird to protect their entitlements. Smith does have some charisma with this block due to her town meetings, and when she enters the campaign fight full speed this month, poll numbers could shift one or two percent very easily. To Baird's advantage, though, it should be remembered that at least a couple of thousand Democrat-leaning voters probably didn't bother with the primary, but will vote in the general, if only to punch a hole for Slick Willie. Republicans, on the other hand, tend to regard every election as a life-or-death drama, so they have already, for the most part, been accounted for. Baird can only go up from here, whereas Smith will now be forced to debate and appear as the defensive candidate. Such is the disadvantage of being branded a shoo-in early in the campaign.

Cut the Crap TV special

If you're a new reader of this column, you may not be aware that a TV version exists on TCTV, local access channel 3 (sorry, ya gotta have cable). During October, however, the Cut the Crap crew goes into hibernation to prepare for our one hour, gala, live phone-in, live karaoke, pre-election day spectacular, so regular programming will be suspended throughout most of October until November 4th. So if you don't have cable, now is the time to make friends with someone who does and make a date to watch The Cut the Crap Special Live Phone-In Show at 8 PM, November 4th. If you can't do that, than why not be in the audience? Reserve your spot by calling 352-5780. (Limited seating available, first come, first serve.)

National Day of Protest
Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation

WIP News Service

Instead of protecting the public, police departments around the country are waging a campaign of violence and intimidation against the people in our communities. Five years ago, we watched the televised beating of Rodney King. Today we see Riverside sheriffs brutally beating Mexican immigrants caught on videotape. In cities across the country, police kill unarmed people every month, yet the officers are rarely disciplined. In New Orleans and Philadelphia, police were caught fabricating evidence and filing false reports in thousands of cases. In New York recently, undercover cops shot an unarmed Black man 15 times. In another incident, an off-duty New York cop pulled his gun to protect his racist friend who was beating a Black youth into a coma. The Mark Fuhrman tapes gave us a glimpse of how widespread police murders, frame-ups, and extortions are. I.N.S. (immigration) agents have been caught murdering and raping immigrants on the border between Mexico and the U.S.

Basta ya! This is too much. The U.S. locks up a higher percentage of its people than any other country in the world. Mumia Abu-Jamal faces execution; Geronimo Pratt, Leonard Peltier and others have spent decades in prison for their political activity. Today over 25% of young Black men are caught up in the criminal justice system. Jails are being built instead of schools and hospitals and politicians are promising to put more cops on the street and pass more fascist laws to put more people in jail. But who will protect us from the system?

Who will protect the people being routinely brutalized for being the wrong color or being homeless or poor? Who will protect the people being hunted by La Migra for the crime of trying to find work? Who will protect our youth who are jacked, arrested and worse by cops for how they look and dress? Who will protect us from the abuse of power and political repression that has been sanctioned by the new Federal crime bill and "anti-terrorist" laws? IT IS UP TO US TO STOP THE EPIDEMIC OF POLICE ABUSE AND VIOLENCE!

The fact that thousands took to the streets across the country after the Rodney King verdicts, in response to the Riverside (CA) beating, and in individual cases across the country is a sign of hope. But we must unite still stronger. This fall, as politicians push anti-crime propaganda and laws, and anti-civil rights initiatives, we can strike a note of truth if we raise our voices loud enough and bring into the streets a message that cannot be ignored.

On October 22, we are calling on people of all races and backgrounds to stand up and say that we will no longer put up with all this. On October 22, we are calling for people across the country to wear black in protest and in memory of the many people who have been brutalized and murdered by the police. We are calling for people to participate in demonstrations, teach-ins, candlelight vigils and other forms of protest across the country on this day because we know that the brutality will continue unless we demand that it stop. Join us in making this day a powerful reality.

This Day of Protest is endorsed by many groups all across the country including CopWatch (Olympia) which can be reached at (360) 352-6543 and groups in Seattle which can be reached at (206) 233-7940.

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Courting Our Dollars But Stomping on Our Rights?

Tom Freeman

In a commerce based economy, businesses continually seek out expanding customer bases to maintain stability and to grow. In this election year, it is important to remember that we not only vote on election day, but we vote every time we make a purchase with our dollars. I often forget that little fact, but two incidents recently brought the point home front and center, involving Lacey's Stolz Computer and Calico Temporary Tattoos located in California.

Stolz Computers

Stolz Computers on Pacific Avenue in Lacey provides computer repair services. Based on the recommendation of Future Shop, Stolz recently worked on my computer. Their service was competent enough, and I considered them a nice group of people. I was surprised then, when I discovered two huge Ellen Craswell for Governor signs in front of the store (this was prior to the primary). While I believe in and respect free speech, Ms. Craswell is running on an agenda of the Christian Right, trying to implement her social morality on the citizens of this state. Plus, her anti-state employee attitude is also quite disturbing. With this in mind, and my original premise that we vote with our dollars, I decided to call Stolz and express my disbelief in their political stance.

My first contact was with a staff person who explained that the signs were there because of the owner, Paul Wegemann, not because all employees agreed. So I asked to speak with Mr. Wegemann. I introduced myself, explained that I was a customer and then said that if he is supporting a candidate of the Christian Right, that I was deeply disappointed and also unable to take my business there any longer. He responded that this was "free speech," and I agreed. I did remind him however that I also have free speech and that if he stands for such political stances as Mrs. Craswell is fermenting, then I have an obligation to make that known to my friends and associates. His reply was that his taxes pay for my free speech. How fascinating! I always thought the U.S. military took credit for my free speech!!

I did remind him however that I also have free speech and that if he stands for such political stances as Mrs. Craswell is fermenting, then I have an obligation to make that known to my friends and associates.

Mr. Wegemann was not interested in my position at all. Even though I told him Mrs. Craswell has targeted the Gay and Lesbian communities for harm, and I take being targeted very personally, he felt I was threatening him because I was a state employee and as a member of the Washington Federation of State Employees Local 443, I promised to share this information with them as well. I tried to tell him that my purpose is to educate, not dictate to individuals the businesses with whom they can transact. The conversation ended with implied threats of complaining to my employer, even though I was not on work time. Go figure.

I have also noticed an Ellen Craswell sign at The Woodshed Furniture Store, where we were going to recently visit for some book shelves. Phyl's Furniture has Linda Smith signs up, and although she is being touted as this great reformer, most people know that her main issue that got her into politics was opposition to abortion and homosexuality.

Calico Temporary Tattoos

Recently, I ordered temporary tattoos from a company called "Calico Temporary Tattoos" located at 315 Plantation Way, Vacaville CA 95687. I have no complaints with their product or service. However, I subsequently learned that Calico refused to make temporary tattoos for the 9th Northwest International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival. I spoke with festival coordinator Shaunna Rae and asked what the offending artwork was, and she told me it was a pink triangle, with a rainbow on it!! I couldn't even believe that this was true, so I called them.

Upon speaking with owner Kevin Kauffman, it was confirmed that Calico does indeed REFUSE to do any business with references to "sex." When I explained that Gay pride is a political statement, not a sexual one, he disagreed and let me know that they will not reproduce anything with a "sexual theme". At this point, I notified Mr. Kauffman that I would not be able to conduct further business with him, as I cannot in clear conscience support company-sanctioned homophobia. He appeared very unconcerned that I or anyone else would choose not to use his company. For those who would like further information from Mr. Kauffman, you can write, or call (707) 448-7072. Their fax is (707) 446-8273.

These two incidents have made me re-think my relationships with business. I plan to spend some time finding out about their politics before I vote with my dollars. Ms. Craswell does not have a prayer of a chance to win this election, so perhaps it is unnecessary to get angry at Stolz Computer. On the other hand, if he is so boldly proclaiming her as his choice for governor, was my business really important to him in the first place? Furthermore, in regard to his business or Calico Tattoos, should I use my limited resources to empower the oppressor? For me, the answer is a resounding "no." How about you?

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to participate
in events
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and music
and address itself
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– E.B. White

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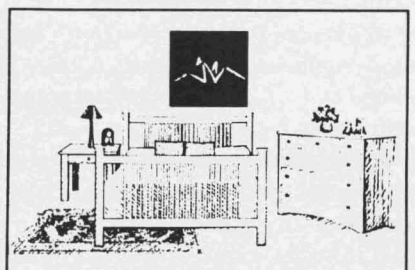

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Dem. Candidate for State Representative, 22nd District, Position 1

WIP Interviews Sandra Romero

Editorial note: The following interview was reviewed by the candidate.

Why are you running?

This will be my third term, if elected, and it will be, under term limits, my final term. I feel I have accomplished a great deal in the last two terms that I served in the Legislature and would like to continue serving the community. Before I was elected to the state legislature, I served on the Olympia City Council and was very active in the community serving on boards and commissions. I saw there were a lot of issues that had to be addressed on the state level. Environmental laws, growth management laws, labor laws that on the local level you couldn't address so I wanted to run for the legislature.

What three things would you like to accomplish as a state legislator?

I want to continue making sure that all of our citizens get a fair shake. That no one is treated better than someone else. Like in our schools, I don't want the boys to get a better education than girls or whites to get a better education than the minorities or for gays and lesbians to be treated worse than everybody else. We are all a community together and we need to be treated fairly. I want to make sure our state goes in that direction.

I also want to make sure our environmental laws aren't taken away like the attempts we saw in the last legislative session. I do think the state needs an endangered species act apart from the federal one, and we saw many, many attempts to get rid of that. I think that we need to protect Puget Sound, especially since there were attempts in the last sessions to get rid of the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority, etc.

Government does need to be efficient, I've worked on that issue for four years now, and I think we are getting efficiencies, but I don't think we need a meat axe approach and just lay off our constituents, our community people just because we need to make government smaller. We need to make government smarter and more efficient, but smaller isn't necessarily the answer.

Would you support increasing the minimum wage in Washington State? The last time we put through a state minimum wage we increased it above federal levels. Would you support increasing it at the state level again?

Yes. I had a bill in the last session of the legislature to increase the minimum wage and it was indexed so it went up fifty cents a year until it reached about seven dollars and twenty cents a hour. That's still way below what a person needs to make to stay off of welfare. I mean, even our state or the federal minimum wage, we're just looking at about the same in buying power as it was in the sixties.

Statistics show higher incarceration rates for persons of color, in particular young black males. Are there changes you would make to the criminal justice system knowing this? If so, what changes? Or do you favor the current system?

I see a lot of prejudice against hispanics, prejudice against black people, as I have said before, people because of their sexual orientation, and the stereotypes that are attached to people. If we can erased those and break those barriers, that's the lasting way to do it, but we're not going to do it overnight. We need data on the statistics to find out who exactly is in our prisons, what they are in there for and then, how many people that are not of color who get off the hook. I think we as the state can address this issue.

No-frills prisons? Do you have an opinion on that? Do you support education for inmates without a high school education?

Well, when we passed the juvenile justice act a number of years ago one of my bills was incorporated into that. If inmates didn't test out with an 8th grade level than they would get remedial education so they didn't have to come out of prison illiterate. That's a barrier.

Frills... Being on the capital budget committee I have traveled to a lot of prisons and I don't know what people's ideas of frills are. They have access to a law library, but I don't know if that is a frill or not. They have exercise rooms, but they are not state- of-the-arts better than Gold's Gym kind of exercise rooms. Guards, for safety reasons, need to have some kind of lever for punishment, such as taking a privilege away.

Supporters of equal rights have called on state government to pass a law mandating civility and neutrality towards gays and lesbians in employment, access to public accommodations, and housing. The bill has been dubbed the Cal Anderson Memorial Civil Rights Bill in honor of the late state senator. What is your position on the granting of civil rights to gays and lesbians and what specifically if elected would you do to support your position?

I have a proven track record of supporting House Bill 1443. Ed Murray, who was the legislator from Seattle will be offering another bill and we will continue to work on that issue. As I have said earlier, I just don't think people should be treated differently based on the color of their skin, sexual orientation, their accent.

What programs would you initiate or favor to encourage small businesses?

Well, the state can do a number of things. Some businesses advocate regulatory reform. What it amounts to is a lot less red tape and getting out of some of the regulations that have been put in place for a variety of reasons: workers' protection, civil rights, sexual harassment laws, hazardous chemical, a lot of reporting. I have a lot of concerns with helping small business in that manner. What I would like though to help small businesses is have a tax environment that is not as onerous as the B&O tax.

What is your position on a woman's right to choose an abortion?

I think it is a woman's right. It should be available.

What is your opinion of child labor law? How many hours during the school week and after school should a child work?

The bill that was before the legislature in the last session would have allowed students in school, 16, 17, and 18 year-olds to work up to ten hours on a school day. Those testifying in favor of the bill primarily were the fast food industry where they can have the kids stay up late and close, get up early, open and go to work. There were a variety of reasons. You can argue the issue now both sides, but I think the bottom line is that all the definitive studies prove that the less sleep and the more hours worked by kids during classroom, their grades suffer.

I think the students' paramount duty, while they are in school, is to get an education and not to work. They can get that work experience latter on. They won't be in school forever.

There continues to be a problem of homelessness in many Washington state communities. Are you in favor of subsidizing low-income housing?

I think that is the only way we can meet the demand.

Governor Lowry has made the point that as the federal government increasingly designates to the states as the responsibility of public assistance (or welfare), state assistance programs will require more funding resources. Will you back positions in favor of assuring welfare assistance to the needy even if it means restructuring taxes or tapping rainy day funds?

Well, if we don't, we have to suffer the consequences. You have to, as a legislator, evaluate the pros and cons. I think that there is reform that can be made in the Welfare system. I don't think it's the reform that has to be made at the expense of children and their safety. I would like to see Welfare reformed. There are so many ways you can go about doing it, but just saying "Hey, you've been on Welfare for three years. You don't get to be on it anymore" is a big problem. You can do a variety of things. You can tie to something like unemployment insurance because you aren't working. [Those who absolutely can't work, which is like the federal bill, they get the special help, you get a 20 percent I believe it is, sort of a wiggle room within that, that's where you have to look at these people and you have to look at it very closely the reasons way. Whether it is that they are just not employable.] There are a variety of reasons that people are not employable: no skills, not having the capacity to acquire skills, having a debilitating disease, a variety of reasons. I think that if we have increased case loads, we have to be able to have the money. We can't have people in the streets and there is not enough private resources to pick up the slack.

Do you favor "takings legislation" which would compensate property owners for wetland and other environmental set aside requirements?

No, absolutely not. In fact, I fought hard against referendum 48 because it went too far.

I think that some companies that are required to provide a bigger buffer in their logging to protect riparian habitat and streams should be given a break on their property taxes. However, when you look at just speculation, no way.

Are you in favor of privatizing prisons? Do you think prison labor should be used in profit-making ventures, such as telemarketing?

The legislature last year had an LBC study on the pros and cons of privatizing prisons. There was nothing that was real conclusive. If you have prison labor, you have business just mad as hornets because they are competing with them. And then you have the segment of the population that say prisoners should be put to work. So what do you do, just have them break stones all day?

Are you going to be able to get them useful skills? Telemarketing I'm not real in favor of because what really irritates me is those solicitation phone calls in the evening and most of them are out-of-state or out of my community. It's not local people calling me. Data entry, would be good, but you also have to be real sensitive in the community of that prison those jobs you would be taking away. So you need to have a fit of what the prisoners can doing in that prison.

To prevent competition with the private sector would you favor a comparable wage in prison?

I guess I'm thinking of the competition. Knowing what is out there, if we gave prisoners an equal wage, a comparable wage it would need to be in jobs where they wouldn't be competing with the private sector. Also, if they were to earn a comparable wage, maybe a portion it might be able to go into a victims' compensation fund.

How would you define our transportation problems? What should we do to resolve them?

One transportation problem is that we don't have enough space and money to build all the roads to accommodate all the people who drive singly in their cars. We don't, there is no way. I look at our state transportation budget now and almost half the money goes to maintain the roads we already have. You're looking at a real economic issue right now. We're talking about building new bridges, getting state matches for down here or over in Yakima how they have special needs for new bridges, new improvements. Money is drying up.

It is a mixture. We need to have incentives. Transportation demand management is one to keep people from driving alone. We need to beef up our public transportation system. I think it is affordable, I don't think that's a problem. I think one of the problems is the predictability, being able to rely on it, to be able to get to your destination in a timely manner. And all of that is being addressed: the transportation system state-wide, our meeting and working out plans to be able to increase connectivity.

We need to be a lot more creative in the way that we move people and goods. I think the budget, no pun intended, is the driver. Where we decide because its a real measure of policy where we put our money is what we feel our direction is. We have to move away from just building more roads to other modes of transportation.

GOP Candidate for State Representative, 22nd District, Position 1

WIP Interviews Thelma Jackson

Editorial note: The following interview was reviewed by the candidate.

Why have you decided to run for public office?

The primary reason is because I think I can bring the quality of leadership to the legislature for this 22nd district that this area deserves to have. I don't think we've had it up to this point. I think the timing is right for me as a local person activist and now is the time.

What three things would you like to accomplish as a state legislator?

First of all, I am very interested improving the business environment in this state. Being a small business person, I'm realizing the kinds of legislative things that's happened over the years as having a very negative impact on business. Secondly, I would like to work towards continuing the education reform that's been happening in the last couple of sessions. I have been very, very involved in the education community over the last 20 years and intricately involved in the development of education reform legislation in this state. And thirdly, the concept and preceptions about public officials have really suffered in the later years and I think I am a quality person of high integrity and can bring that back to the fold.

The last time we put through a state minimum wage we increased it above federal levels. Would you support increasing it at the state level again?

Yes, but with the increase in minimum wage would have to come some concessions, because as a business person I am sensitive as to where that wage increase is to come from. The fact is that business, in particular small business, is the source of most employment in this state. If the minimum wage is raised without some other kinds of concessions as it relates to business and occupation taxes, inventory taxes and other things that also impact the employer that has to supply the wage, then just raising the minimum wage without the other kinds of consideration or some other things, no.

Minimum wage as a concept as you toss it out is easy to say "yes", but it's not that simple, it's a very complex issue. Unless you are on the business side of things, people don't really understand all the things that go into signing a paycheck for an employee every month.

Statistics show higher incarceration rates for persons of color, in particular young black males. Are there changes you would make to the criminal justice system, knowing this? If so, what changes? Or do you favor the current system?

Statistics definitely show a higher incarceration rate. As a member of the African-American Affairs Commission we spent extensive time studying, researching and analyzing what's been going on in the criminal justice system. The data is very clear as to who the predominant individuals are in our criminal justice system, both at the adult level and juvenile level, both males and females. We are very concerned about some of the things that lead to that. It has to do with the court system, it has to do with the whole arresting and booking system, it has to do with the plea bargaining that goes on in the system. It's an economic issue from the point of view of being able to afford adequate counsel without just resorting to public defenders. There are a number of factors that lead to this statistic. We as a state should be concerned about why black males are such a majority.

There are so many other social factors involved here and I don't know what might be coming forward as far as legislation. There have been a number of legislative activities over the last two or three sessions. Some of the prosecutorial sentencing standards that the commission proposed legislation for that began to address the differences from one county to another depending on who is the prosecutor, who the judges are, on how racially aware and sensitive are they or how racist are they. These things result in the statistic that says our penal institutions are disapportionately occupied by certain groups of citizens as opposed to others. That means that it's not just so simple to look at the statistic itself without looking at all the contributing factors. It didn't just start, its been there all the time.

As we have begun to research and question and bring these things to the surface have we made them more visible so that other people begin to say "We've got to do something about this."

No-frills prisons? Do you have an opinion on that? Do you support education for inmates without a high school education?

I wouldn't consider that a frill. When people talk about the frills in the criminal justice system, I would think in terms of color tv in jail cells and these kind of things. When you talk about remedial education and job training, I don't consider those things frills. But the criminal justice system has taken things too far as to the rights of prisoners. I think when people talk about the frills, they are talking about more of those things than they are remedial education and job training that is trying to return worthwhile citizens back to the community and back to the streets. I would support remedial education and job training, but some of the other frills need taking a look at. We have to make prisons a correctional system and not a system that's more plush then what they enjoyed on the outside.

Supporters of equal rights have called on state government to pass a law mandating civility and neutrality towards gays and lesbians in employment, access to public accommodations, and housing. The bill has been dubbed the Cal Anderson Memorial Civil Rights Bill in honor of the late state senator. What is your position on the granting of civil rights to gays and lesbians and what specifically, if elected, would you do to support your position?

I feel that gays and lesbians already have civil rights as any other citizen, as any other human being as provided by the Constitution. I know that there is a lot of harassment and negative behaviors toward many gays and lesbians, but as far as Gays and Lesbians being American citizens they are entitled to the same civil rights as any other citizen. So when you say what is my position on granting, I feel as though they have already been granted, they already have civil rights.

Does that mean in cases where they have been denied housing, access to public housing or employment and health care and things like that, you would seek redress?

Now the Cal Anderson bill that was around the session before last, that bill was attempting to add gays and lesbians as another protected group under the civil rights legislation, and I am not in favor of that. I don't feel that they should be added as an additional protected class.

My understanding of 1443 was that it is trying to have society take a stand that says civility is based on not whether you are gay or lesbian, but that sexual orientation will not be a causal reason to say "I will not hire you or I will not let you rent an apartment." Apparently as it now stands, if somebody says "I don't want to hire you because you are gay or lesbian" it is not specified as being illegal.

It's just endless when you start to getting into these sexual aspects of people's lives, when you start adding on to the protected classes of individuals. It's endless, there's no end to it. When the legislation was out there four years ago, the argument was essentially "we just wanted our rights, we just to be protected, this has nothing to do with rights to get married." Well, what is the movement now? To sanction gay marriages. For years there were strong promises made that this had nothing to do with it. "We're not seeking to marry or any of that." Well, there's no end to this.

So I am for working as hard as I know how to protect and maintain the civil rights of every human individual, including gays and lesbians. But when it comes to doing anything to work towards to their addition to the protective classes, I will not be there.

What programs would you initiate or favor to encourage small businesses?

When you take a look at the current structure in the state of Washington, it is very difficult to encourage someone to get into small business today. Given difficulties to survive, given the failure rate, thirty-three percent of the small businesses a year go down in the state of Washington. Until the climate is improved, it's very hard to honestly encourage someone to go into business today.

What is your position on a woman's right to choose an abortion?

She has every right, every right. I'm pro choice all the way. What she does with that choice is her business also. For government or organizations to try to decide what that choice should be for a woman is absolutely wrong.

What is your opinion of the state's child labor law limiting the number of hours a child may work? How many hours during the school week and after school should a child work?

I think it had grave impact on a number of kids. I know what we're trying to get at by virtue of the kids that only are getting so much rest, can't keep up with school work and those kinds of things. But at the same time there are a number of youth, 18 and under, who are independent who must work. They're not out there just to buy a car or that extra pay for faddish clothes They are their sole source of income. And there are number of kids who manage very well, working and going to school, keeping up, actively involved in activities, making good grades, top kids. So when you pass these kind of laws, all kids are impacted, not just the ones we are trying to protect.

Businesses really went on record trying to point out to the legislature what impacts would be not only on their businesses, but on the lives of a lot of their young employees. The concept of trying to afford some protection to kids who have been abused, kids who weren't ready for those lengths of hours for work, I applaud that. But it has had a dragnet type of effect on everybody, and that is where I think you hear the loudest hew and cry.

There continues to be a problem of homelessness in many Washington state communities. Are you in favor of subsidizing low-income housing?

Depending on what type of program, funding how, structured in what way to do what. I guess you can tell from some of my answers I'm more of a holistic thinker. I'm don't just pick up an issue and all of a sudden come up with an solution to a simple issue.

Again, why are people in the condition they are in that cause them to be low-income. Is that education, is that employment, is that healthcare and the kinds of things that keep people at the bottom rungs of economic ladder? There are different kinds of ways to come at this low-income housing problem. If programs are trying to serve as a bridge to help people until some other factors in their lives improve, fine. But no, if it's just a begin all, end all low-income house subsidy kind of program with no other elements of support or remediation for those people that's not getting anywhere.

Governor Lowry has made the point that as the federal government increasingly designates to the states as the responsibility of public assistance (or welfare), state assistance programs will require more funding resources. Will you back positions in favor of assuring welfare assistance to the needy even if it means restructuring taxes or tapping rainy day funds?

I think the state welfare system is in bad need of overhaul. I know that welfare reform legislation died in the last session. Welfare reform without a strong components of childcare, job training and continued healthcare is not welfare reform. I know the piece that came out

(Continued on page 14)

Zapatistas Working for Justice and Peace

Committee in Solidarity with the People of Mexico

During the first days of the Zapatista uprising in Chiapas, Mexico, a small group of people in Olympia got together to form the Committee in Solidarity with the People of Mexico (CSPM) to provide the Olympia community with information about Mexico (and in effect, to counter misinformation being released by the Mexican and American governments and by the media.) CSPM has also provided material and financial support to Zapatista and other Mexican communities and has directly addressed the Mexican government with letters, faxes and public protests.

In August of 1995, CSPM brought Cecilia Rodriguez to Olympia to speak about the situation in Chiapas. Since June of 1994, Rodriguez has been the official spokesperson of the EZLN (Zapatista National Liberation Army) and works with the National Commission for Democracy in Mexico, based in El Paso, Texas. She regularly travels to Chiapas to confer with Zapatista communities and leadership.

On August 29 of 1996 the EZLN decided to discontinue negotiations with the Mexican Government, describing the negotiations as turning into a "pantomime". In the following letter from Cecilia Rodriguez, she repeats the EZLN's call for the people of the United States to help pressure the Mexican government to negotiate in good faith, to choose a political solution to the present crisis in Mexico instead of a military one.

The Proposal of the EZLN

The only viable solution for the crisis in Mexico?

by Cecilia Rodriguez

How can we continue negotiating on these terms? How can we continue a dialogue whose existence depends upon the death and denial of the liberties of the hostages in the jails and indigenous communities? What can be made of a negotiations table whose objective is the simulation and the advancement of a violent option? Should we allow the negotiations at San Andres to become a "pantomime" which the government delegation seeks?"
EZLN COMMUNIQUE, AUGUST '96

As the year draws to a close we find the situation in Mexico deteriorating. This is inevitable because of the following reasons;

1. The political economy which is being implemented in Mexico and is sanctioned by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the U.S. Treasury Department is devastating Mexico. In spite of all the evidence and the growing social opposition to these policies both the governments of the United States and Mexico remain entrenched in their positions.

2. The political system, rife with corruption and stagnation, has entered a final stage of decomposition. There is not one government in power in Mexico, but factions vying for power among themselves and holding the people of Mexico hostage.

3. The only means by which those in power in Mexico can control social unrest is to militarize the country. This process is occurring rapidly, and is one of the best-kept secrets of American policy toward the United States. The United States has increased the amount and nature of military aid it provides to Mexico.

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The most recent crisis is due to the sentencing of 6 individuals in Yanga, Veracruz to six years in prison. They are accused of being members of the EZLN. These prisoners have been held for 19 months. The only significant evidence against them is their confessions which were extracted by torture. The sentence once again delegitimizes the peace process, as does the most recent military actions of the Mexican army;

1) Aerial commando units capable of lightning strikes have been stationed in the highlands, the northern part of the state and the jungle. They constitute approximately 4,000 parachutists which can attack at different points. These commando units will be used to hunt down and kill the leadership of the EZLN.

2) The wall of hunger established by the intense level of military presence in indigenous villages continues. The threat of rape to the women prevents them from leaving their homes to get firewood. In order to protect them, the men will not leave the home to work the fields. In addition to this the flow of support, credit and supply for the planting of food has been blocked to those communities which identify themselves as Zapatistas. Hunger and rape are weapons of choice in this war.

3) A recent report from Gobernacion (Mexico's State Department) elevates the EPR (an armed group in Guerrero which became public in June of this year) to "the rival of the EZLN which combines armed struggle with propaganda operatives and political initiatives". Although the EPR has not declared war on the government it has taken various military actions which have been utilized as a justification for launching a full-scale military and political attack primarily against indigenous communities and political activists around the country....

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Militarily and politically, the Mexican government is crafting the arguments to 1) force the EZLN to surrender without securing any significant social or political gains by starving and slowly assassinating its social base 2) militarize the country and terrorize, imprison, or kill any civil activism and peaceful opposition which may exist and/or 3) justify a frontal and intensified military blow against the EZLN.

Yet it is the EZLN which has demonstrated by its actions a profound commitment to a political solution and concrete proposals for how this solution can come about. The EZLN has complied with a cease-fire since January 12th of 1994 and has done the following;

[The Zapatistas] has at all times kept the public informed through frequent communiques including advisories about military actions...the transformation of Mexican society, supersedes its need to uphold a military reputation.

1. It has at all times kept the public informed through frequent communiques including advisories about military actions. Its communication has earned the criticism of some who say the EZLN gives away its "military" strategy. The EZLN has responded that its political objective, the transformation of Mexican society, supersedes its need to uphold a military reputation. 2. It is an armed group entrenched in a very large social base, primarily indigenous, which protected and organized it over a period of ten years. These communities are committed to the patient construction of an alternative, and their leaders constitute the decision-making body of the EZLN. They share the political, social and economic marginalization of millions in Mexico. A profound change in their condition heralds that same possibility for many others.

3. It has opened a constant dialogue with civil society by opening Zapatista villages as Aguascalientes. These cultural and political centers are symbolic of the political program of the EZLN. That program consists of 16 basic demands and a partnership with civil society which in the words of the EZLN, "What we seek, what we need and want is that all those people without a party and organization make agreements about what they want and do not want and become organized in order to achieve it (preferably through civil and peaceful means), not to take power, but to exercise it." In this spirit, the Aguascalientes have served as meeting places where the people of Mexico and the world can meet to share their ideas, strategies, and work proposals for constructing a political solution to the conflict and an alternative to globalization.

4. It has repeatedly exposed its leadership and its base communities to militarization, possible assassination attempts and sabotage by sponsoring widely-publicized activities. This is a price it has been willing to pay in order to facilitate a political solution.

5. It has formulated an organization proposal for its own transition to the civic struggle, the Zapatista Front of National Liberation. This was announced in January of 1996. The Front will NOT participate in an electoral process, but in an organizational process in poor communities.

6. It has limited its military actions to a defense against any frontal attack which may come from the Federal Army.

(Continued next page)

Write a Letter in Support

Dear President Zedillo,

I am most concerned with the failure of your government to clearly demonstrate its commitment to a political solution to the conflict in Chiapas. I oppose the militarization which is occurring in many parts of Mexico and I urge you NOT to use military force against civilians who are dedicated to finding a political solution to the conflict. I urge you to comply with the following;

1. The immediate liberation of all the alleged Zapatistas now in prison and of new prisoners which have been taken from the Zapatista bases in the northern part of Chiapas. Six individuals recently received a sentence based upon confessions extorted by torture. Ten more remain to be sentenced. I urge you to exonerate all of them.

2. A new negotiating team for the government.

3. The installation of a Verification and Implementation Commission and the implementation of the first agreements made in the table of "Indigenous Rights and Culture".

4. Serious and concrete proposals of agreement for the theme on "democracy and justice".

5. An end to the climate of military and police persecution against the indigenous people of Chiapas and the disappearance of the paramilitary groups which have been operating with impunity in different parts of the state.

Thank you for your attention,

Name (Print)
Address
Signature

(Zapatistas, continued)

.....

These are specific reasons why the EZLN, and not the PRI, or the electoral process, or any other group offers the only viable solution to the crisis in Mexico. The EZLN and its base communities must be supported in order to avoid a bloodbath which is likely to occur if a transitional process to democracy cannot be secured. This transitional process cannot come about as the result of a coup, no matter the political tendency involved, nor can it be something which occurs spontaneously or superficially. Mexico's centralized and corrupt political system must be completely reconstructed. This transitional process must be in the hands of millions in Mexico who have the opportunity and the civil and human right to use peaceful means.

This is not possible in a militarized Mexico. It is not possible in a country at war. As always only increased national and international pressure and presence can hold open the democratic spaces which the people of Mexico need.

That is why the participation of the people in the United States is vital. Our government has turned a deaf ear to the process in Mexico and is keeping its fingers crossed that Mexico will not fly apart. It is hoping that the people of the United States will remain passive and ignorant about its involvement in the militarization process.

We are asking you as an individual to do the following; 1). Sign the following letter to President Zedillo and send it to him immediately. 2). Sponsor a house meeting, ask for a place to set up a table at your local church, swap meet, or group activity and ask people to sign this letter. 3). Provide educational materials to the people who give you their signatures so they can become informed about the crisis in Mexico.

If we do not act, the consequences of the war in Mexico will be merciless. It will not come as sudden drastic open combat which will consume our television screens. It will be millions of people streaming across the border looking for hope. It will be selective terror on the highways and in the cities of Mexico which will touch resident and tourist alike. It will be a creeping process of deterioration which will leave nothing standing. And it will be inevitable that it will have dramatic impact upon the US.

Act now and give the people of Mexico the democratic space they need in order to act and to construct a political system of which they can be proud.

If you are interested in helping CSPM to gather signatures for the letter, or if you want more information, you can call 352-6342.

November 6 - December 6

Pastors for Peace Caravan to Chiapas, Mexico/Guatemala/Nicaragua

Material Aid Needed for Nicaragua:

Nicaragua is now the poorest country in this hemisphere, with unemployment approaching 80%, and crushing foreign debts. The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association* asks for your help in donating requested and needed items for our sister counterpart in Nicaragua. The Pastors for Peace Caravan will deliver to Santo Tomas in early December.

Needed before November:

*Medical and dental supplies
*bulk pharmaceuticals
*sewing machines
*sports equipment
*computers and printers
*financial contributions to pay for shipping and purchases of above items

Caravan donations that we have received to date:

A good working X-ray machine, several sewing machines, fabric, vegetable seeds, two personal computers with printers, misc. medical supplies, and we have enough funds to rent a tenth of a cargo van space from the Pastors For Peace Caravan.

If we receive more large items, we'll have to rent more space to send them. Please send financial contributions if you have not yet done so, and all leftover funds will go towards the purchase of dental supplies in the new dental clinic at the Clinica Popular de Santo Tomas. The People's Clinic is a not-for-profit, locally run health care facility that does not receive government funds.

The Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association is a non-governmental organization that counters U.S. Foreign Policy in Nicaragua by supporting and developing relationships with people and organizations in Santo Tomas, Chontales, Nicaragua (begun in 1988). Your donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. TSTSCA is incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. To arrange a donation drop off or pick up call Jean at 943-8642 or send to: TSTSCA 1958 Westridge Lane NW Olympia, WA 98502.

Corn Flour Hand Grinders Needed for Women in Chiapas, Mexico:

Communities in Chiapas, Mexico have been forcibly dislocated from the land, and their homes. The Women in these refugee communities expressed a desperate need for corn flour hand grinders. These hand grinders are used to grind corn to make tortillas, a mainstay of the diet in Chiapas. If you have a grinder collecting dust on a shelf, please consider donating it, or making a financial donation to purchase grinders. The hand grinders will be delivered to women in Chiapas on the Pastors For Peace Caravan. Call Amy at 705-8361 for more information or to arrange drop off.

Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association

October 14th
Outrageous Potluck and Annual Meeting Extraordinaire
6pm in the Great Hall,
First United Methodist
1224 East Legion Way

Join us in partaking of Nicaraguan cuisine that some of us are planning to bring: nacatamales, gallo pinto, baho, tuti fruti, empanadas de pina, pinalio y cafe...

We'll provide place settings and beverages and enough of the above to sample and you'll bring something delicious to share too! Bring friends and family.

The Evergreen State College students who spent last winter or spring in Santo Tomas, Chontales, Nicaragua will give presentations about their experiences, the community projects they volunteered in, and are willing to try to answer your questions about the current situation in Nicaragua. Their national elections are scheduled to take place on October 20th and this is a particularly tense period. There are at least two electoral observers from the TESC faculty to be joining hundreds of international observers in Nicaragua at that time.

Pastors For Peace Caravan Send-Off

November 6, 1996
Potluck/Latin Music at 6:30 pm
Pastors for Peace at 7:30 pm
at the United Churches
110 11th Avenue SE

Come learn more about Pastors for Peace, celebrate the send off of this caravan, and wish well to those from Olympia who are going on the caravan.

Since 1988, Pastors for Peace has organized 20 humanitarian aid caravans to Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua in support of communities and non-governmental organizations that are working for peace with justice and dignity. En route to delivering urgently needed material aid, caravans travel to hundreds of communities throughout the US to raise awareness about the effects of US foreign policy on the peoples of Mexico and Central America. The caravans demonstrate the "People's Foreign Policy," which aims to support self-determination and sustainable development. This policy serves an example to our own government, which historically has supported policies that discourage or actively suppress grassroots movements for progressive social change in Mexico and Central America.

Sponsored by the Thurston-Santo Tomas Sister County Association and The Liberation Cafe

Midnight Sun Group Presents

two 2 wild new one act plays

THE TIME DAD THOUGHT I WAS FROM OUTER SPACE by Bryan Willis

Rattlesnake Ridge by Sky Myers

october 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

8pm $7 general $5 students

Midnight Sun Performance Space

113 n. columbia olympia, wa

reservations recommended call 786-9437

Special Arts Walk performances at 7 and 9:30 pm

Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects

Youth Projects

Providing: Free info, condoms, literature, lube, bleach kits, gloves, etc.

Youth Empowerment

We need volunteers and donations.

Contact us along 4th Ave. Fri & Sat nights 6:30-10pm.

Or call us at the OAPP office: 705-4753.

The Fresh and Funky Natural Law Party

Natalie Collier

Speaking of elections, I think Ralph Nader seems to be a good guy and I would be happy if he won based on what he has done in the past. However, the only thing I know about his campaign is that he is on the ballot in 30 states (read it in WIP) and I heard a blip on National Public Radio a few months ago about how he refuses to disclose where he gets his campaign funds. Since Clinton and Dole aren't an option I have been wondering what electoral options exist. And then a friend showed me a 15-page paid ad in USA Today about the Natural Law Party.

They have 16 candidates running for different positions throughout Washington State and a presidential candidate named Dr. John Hagelin (he's a physicist). Hagelin was interviewed on MTV and, through grassroots efforts, raised $3 million to air a 30-minute infommercial four times on some other station. They sound like a viable party but I still have some reservations; one issue is that they insist they don't use negative campaigning, yet keep blaming the Republicans and Democrats for America's problems (even if some of it is true).

Since Clinton and Dole aren't an option I have been wondering what electoral options exist. And then a friend showed me a 15-page paid ad in USA Today about the Natural Law Party.

However, at the heart of every solution they offer is the realization that we need to reduce the stress that has resulted from living according to human law and not natural law. One method they advocate for meeting this goal is practicing Transcendental Meditation. I know it may sound way far out there and you wonder how in tarnation the American public is going to buy this. But they also claim to use only scientifically proven methods and source many of their solutions from scientific or political journals.

Despite my lack of objectivity, here is a summary of what I read about The Natural Law Party (NLP):

The Economy part was too complicated for me but I do know that some of their solutions are to 1) increase national creativity; 2) have an across-the-board tax cut through a low flat tax of 18% with exemption for lower income and poor families; 3) and create enterprise zones in poor urban areas through federal loans.

Health Care: the NLP calls the current health care system "disease care" because it does not allow for preventative or natural medicines. They advocate, among other things, 1) financial rewards for Medicare and Medicaid subscribers who maintain good health and 2) vouchers enabling subscribers to use "any insurance plan or health care provider they desire, thereby promoting competitive costs and quality of care." I am rather concerned about the first option as it could be labeled "healthism" or some such thing and doesn't seem fair or reasonable at all.

For Education their solutions include: 1) having several federal model school systems that local areas can choose from based upon local characteristics and needs; 2) a longer school year with more required subjects; 3) increase the nutritional value of school lunches; 4) create national apprenticeship programs for students not going to college; 5) provide financial support for every student who wants to go to college but can't afford it; 6) improve the status and skills of teachers through policies and programs.

For Agriculture the NLP calls for 1) a moratorium on genetically engineered foods and the labelling of all genetically engineered food as such; 2) training, loans, and grants to be used to encourage farmers to use organic or more sustainable farming practices; 3) a USDA led campaign to encourage the public to buy from sustainable farms; 4) increasing farmers' awareness of natural laws and "to develop the consciousness of the farmer."

Solutions to the problem of Crime and Rehabilitation include 1) reducing social stress and encouraging inmates to use Transcendental Meditation; this is based on a five year study in a maximum security prison where violence and recidivism decreased in groups that meditated; 2) rewarding police for preventing crime based on a program in New York that reduced crime by 31% in six months; 3) drug and alcohol rehab programs.

For Energy and Environment: 1) stop subsidizing fossil fuels and nuclear power; 2) "progressively implement a tax on fossil fuels to reflect their real cost to the nation, including environmental cleanup, medical costs, and security costs in the Persian Gulf; 3) moratorium on logging in "national parks, national forests, and national monuments until a sustainable management plan for cutting is instituted"; 4) education about living according to natural law.

For Election Reform, the NLP wants to 1) eliminate PACs and "soft money"; 2) restrict lobbying by former public servants; 3) limit congressional privileges.

On the infamous Abortion issue they feel that abortions will be reduced through education and not through legislation. The moral responsibility is not the Federal Government's. They support public funding of abortions only in cases of rape, incest, or medical complications and would require other abortions to be privately funded through charity organizations in support of abortion rights.

In the case of Foreign Policy the platform of the NLP calls for the exportation of American expertise and technical assistance in things like business, education, and sustainable agriculture in place of the exportation of military aid.

In regards to Defense, they want to 1) create "prevention whose primary purpose is to prevent the outbreak of war" and to increase the peace; 2) train as few as 1% of the military in "the proven peace-promoting technology of the Transcendental Meditation-Sidhi program"; 3) reduce defense expenditures over time and help defense industries convert to non-defense markets.

For Drug Abuse they have a tough on drug smuggling and selling attitude coupled with a plan to reduce drug use through "eliminating stress and restoring balance in an individual's physiology and psychology" as well as drug rehab programs.

They like Gun Control the way it is and plan to reduce social stress which will result in less crime and violence.

The NLP does not support Capital Punishment and calls for more "compassionate solutions."

And last but not least they feel that their platform will support Women and Minorities and want to increase their participation in government.

I didn't think it would take so long to explain all that but I thought you might be interested. It would be nice if there was some dialogue about some of these proposed solutions. If you want more information you can call the NLP at 1-800-507-3700 or go to http://www.natural-law.org And if anyone can lay out Ralph Nader's platform I'd like to see it in here, too.

In Washington these people are running in the NLP: Michael Hackett -- Lieutenant Governor; Luanne Coachman -- Attorney General; Gary Gill -- Secretary of State; Mae Lovern -- Superintendent of Public Instruction; Marc Strauch -- Commissioner of Public Lands; Steve Sevick -- Insurance Commissioner; and David Gruenstein -- US Congress District 9.

Friday Nights
Liberation Cafe
116 4th Ave - downtown Oly
Top Floor of Bulldog News

Open from 3pm-7pm
Wed., Thurs., Sat
starting October 9th

Come to the regular meetings on Wednesdays at 7pm .

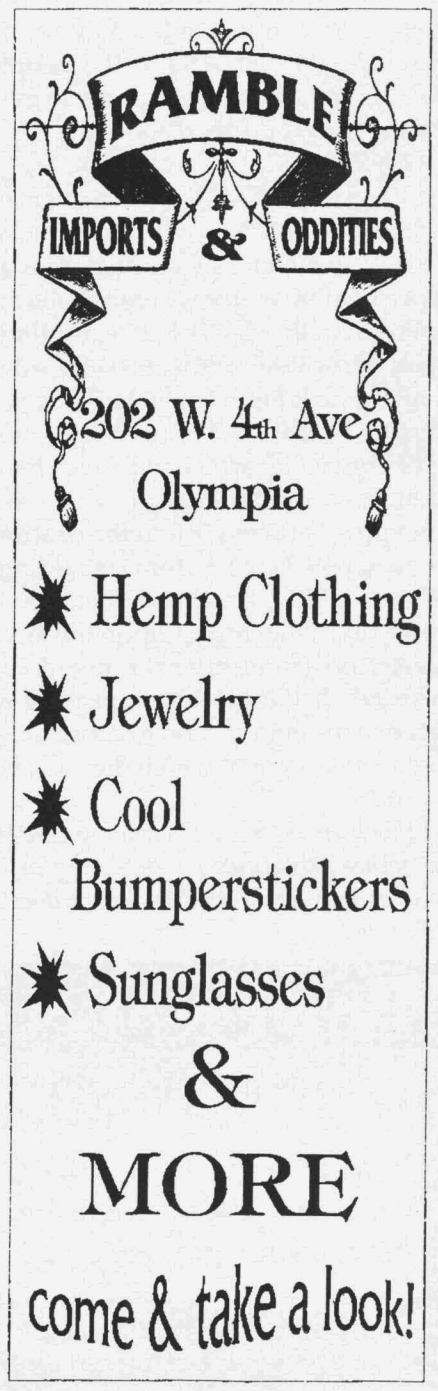
October 4 (7pm)
Vegan Potluck
ArtWalk Party
Display Artists
Poetry Reading

October 11 (7pm)
Native Struggle
with Hilaria Cruz
and Tiokasin Veaux

October 18 (7pm)
Storytelling
with Elizabeth Lord, Rael, Elana Freeman
Open Mic

October 25 (7pm)
Elections & Social Change
Forum with Tom Nogler, Donna Lawrence, Greg Hohnholt, and others

Need info? Got ideas?
call Holly 753-6830 or Pete 956-1771



In Peaceful Struggle

Building Cross Cultural Bridges in the Environmental Movement

Swaneagle

The following is the first part in a three part series where author Swaneagle works to acquaint, familiarize, and educate people with opposing political views. She talks with Natives, environmental activists, militias, loggers and white supremacists as part of her struggle to keep nonviolence in focus. Swaneagle hopes to build cross cultural bridges and recognizes that the monumental task is "to assure that death threats don't materialize, that those who have been beaten receive support and get their story out, that all people who have had to contend with arson, harassment, unlawful arrest and other vicious attacks weren't hurt in vain." Part One is an introductory description of both herself and where she has facilitated communication with members of the Christian Identity, the background to the anti-environmental movement and militias. Part Two has examples of specific instances and interviews with the lessens to be learned for loggers and environmentalists about each other and about Natives. Part Three is a continuation of Part Two.

The roots of my activism are infused in the struggles of Native Americans for their rights to land, culture, ceremony and self-determination. It was my work as a non-Indian supporter at Big Mountain that exposed me to the depth of racism among my own activist people. After a number of years being of service to Pauline Whitsinger, Kineh Elder and Resistance Leader, in the high desert of northeastern Arizona (where traditional Dineh continue to resist forced relocation due to Peabody Coal mining expansion), i felt the necessity of addressing racism. Uprooting systemic bigotry in ourselves and sharing the information with others is integral to authentic human rights work.

In the spring of 1992 i returned to live in the mountains of northeastern Washington to bear my last child. I had been gone nearly 10 years being involved in issues affecting Native Americans, Homeless, Refugees from Central America as well as the legalization of marijuana. That same spring the growing presence of racist skinheads, Christian Identity communities and other white supremacist groups hit the local Colville paper inspiring the formation of a human rights group. This was particularly significant to me as the Mother of mixed race children, one of whom was subjected to mistreatment by other children when he was 7 years old, due to the racism of their parents.

In the fall of 1994 i began noticing ads in the local paper naming environmentalists from Republic as Earth First! terrorists. These accusations were also replicated in the Stevens County Citizens Coalition newsletter. I decided some investigation was in order. I attended a Black Helicopter meeting advertised in the Colville paper that took place in the courthouse. It was my first experience seeing virulent hatred publicly displayed including a panel of bigoted speakers and the video "America Under Siege" by Linda Thompson, the self-appointed adjunct general of the unorganized militia in Michigan. One panel speaker advocated hanging homosexuals. Another one said, "I don't hate blacks or Jews. It's their filthy stinking deeds that I can't stand." I spoke as a Hippie committed to nonviolence and to the untouchables or America: Traditional Indians, Hippies, Refugees, and the Homeless. I mentioned my encounter with black Hughes Apache helicopters harassing the people at Big Mountain, repressive legislation that Newt engages in and my feeling that all our children are in jeopardy. People there invited me to the 2nd Amendment meetings. I attended four of those. I also went to a Federal Lands Advisory Commission meeting and traveled over to Republic to hear Barry Clausen, Earth First! infiltrator speak. I saw many of the same people attending these encounters with extremist perspective mixed with fact. I gathered quite an impressive pile of magazines, fliers, newsletters and other materials from the meetings, the laundrymat and Wal•Mart. I also talked to neighbors, so-called militia leaders and others drawn to the growing movement of disaffected Americans being manipulated by corporate backed bigotry and hatred. My research revealed undeniable support from logging, mining and ranching businesses for these events and the volatile scapegoating of environmentalist, Hippies, human rights activists, people of different races, homosexuals, welfare mothers, immigrants, etc.

In June of 1995, i decided to attend the Earth First! Round River Rendezvous in northern California to begin the more inspiring part of my investigation. Because of the notorious redneck, beer drinking reputation of these gatherings, i had never been interested in going. This was compounded by hearing EF! speakers at an environmental radicalism conference i went to at the University of California at Santa Barbara in the spring of '91 who had bigoted, ethnocentric outlooks. (Winona LaDuke and Judi Bari were shining exceptions at that event.) My van broke down in Ashland, OR and prevented me from attending the RRR. But i was able to go on the Spirit Walk for the Sugarloaf old growth west of Ashland once my van was running again. The walk was a magical experience for my two year old daughter and me. We met wonderfully committed, wild and aware people. Even the trauma of having the oil drained from my engine, ruining it when my friend drove it from one parking spot to another, turned out to be heartening. To connect with others deeply pledged to nonviolence, inclusive in scope, anti-racist, creative and courageous was a true antidote for the gloom the racist right holds so damn dear. Much of what funded slanderer Barry Clausen spewed forth about EF! proved false from this first hand experience.

This summer, I finally made it to the Earth First! RRR at Cove/Mallard in Idaho. After reading the insert in the EF! Journal, i felt concern because the roadless area being defended borders the Nez Perce Indian Reservation which borders Bo Gritz's Almost Heaven survivalist community. In my travels over the winter in both New Mexico and the Olympic Peninsula, i have seen a growing effort to pit corporate backed resource extractors, Wise Use front groups and manipulated militia henchman against both environmentalists and Indian people who have ancient relationships with old growth forests and lands being decimated by mining and cattle grazing. Many environmentalists have little or no meaningful contact with Indian people and participate in perpetrating racist myths. Peter Garcia, a Hopi-Chicano activist and sweat lodge leader, told me in an interview last December that Indian people feel pressure from both the extreme right and the environmentalists. He said that the "all or nothing " attitude of some environmentalists alienates longtime small ranchers who then turn to the right wing "People For The West" ignorant of the corporate hidden agenda. The unwillingness to dialog on the part of environmentalists leaves Indian people with no allies to turn to as they know "People For The West" have little love for them. The traditional wood gathering practices of Indian people are being inaccurately blamed for forest depletion in the southwest. Such survival techniques are now illegal compounding already existing challenges faced by land-based people. Also, there is more of an urgency in stances taken by Indian people since the core of their way of life is under attack and Indian activists are killed or disappeared as in the cases of Leroy Jackson, murdered defender of the old growth juniper and pinon trees on the Navajo Reservation and that of a Pima man protesting corporate cotton pesticide who has simply vanished.

On the way to the Earth First! gathering in Idaho, we stopped for the night at a park outside of Moscow. In the morning we saw a lovely tipi set in the green field by some trees. As we drove out, we stopped to look more closely. As we approached, we noticed that the tipi was in shreds maliciously cut up and left in testimony to the hatred Indian people and culture still suffer. There was a cloth plaque sewn on saying it was made by a NEZ PERCE person giving his name. I cried. What can be said. Later when we were in Moscow, we talked to some residents about the tipi and were told that it happened a long time ago. We were appalled that nothing had been done to remedy the situation and were told that it would just happen again, that another tipi erected in the country had been set on fire by college students who had been drinking. If there is a human rights group in Moscow, they have the responsibility to address this adequately. If there is no human rights group, there ought to be. Once again, i am ashamed to be of the white race that continues to fail to stand up visibly to mean-spirited vandalism that is succeeding in keeping Indian people separated by American apartheid and in driving out black people and others of darker skins and different cultures. All i can say is that i am deeply sorry that my white people don't rise up and say "No more will we allow hatred to dominate hurting those who have the same basic rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness!"

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On the Olympic Peninsula, where i participated in a mass nonviolent action defending the Dosewallips old growth, is also the location of the Skokomish Indian Reservation. Skokomish people attempting to bring salmon back to the Skokomish river have faced anti-Indian sentiment from those opposed to the possible removal of dams. Indians in the northwest had their treaty fishing rights upheld in the mid-seventies by the Boldt decision sparking anti-Indian propaganda attributing salmon depletion to Indian fishermen rather than to the dams and poor logging practices. Now the armed loggers that tree sitters in the Dosewallips encountered are very likely to be involved with outrage leveled at any Indians daring to engage in the remnants of shell fish gathering practices. Jefferson County is one of a number of counties on the peninsula with strong militia influence. The potential danger brewing needs to be closely examined and effectively addressed. Many environmentalists know little or nothing about either the dangers faced by potential Indian allies or the danger

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(Bridges, Continued)

they themselves face at the hands of loggers and others arming against the New World Order with scapegoats as target. Many militia people are being misled by publications put out by Lyndon LaRouche or similar periodicals such as *The Citizen's News* from Sequim, WA. Environmentalists and Indians are portrayed on the spectrum of negativity as minor irritants all the way to being labeled as outright terrorists. It is a serious error to let such misconceptions go unchecked. Those familiar with attacks on environmentalists over the past few years know that saving the Earth is a life and death struggle that threatens to become bloodier unless the emerging death squads are stopped. Anywhere old growth is being defended also requires educating people in the surrounding communities while humanely taking their valid economic fears seriously. From my own experiments with reaching out to those inundated with anti-government, anti-environmental double speak publications, i find that people are hungry for the truth and respond positively to sensible, new information. We are all in the same sinking boat. It is urgent to dismantle suicidal divide and conquer patterns transforming barriers into opportunities for understanding and unity. All of us face extermination and extinction at the hands of the corporate military-industrial monstrosity.

A pure voice comes through traditional, land based Indian people that verges on being silenced forever unless those of us who can, seek them out and give them an honored place in the struggles we engage in with relative safety. Unfortunately, unlearning bigotry has not been a priority to many activists. We carry the burden of institutionalized attitudes towards those who are not like us. Few of us have a cultural frame of reference that includes intimate familiarity with all-pervasive racism. Many women understand it on a gender basis. White frontliners are woefully ignorant when it comes to the need of forming working relationships with Indian people. A Lummi Indian woman once said to me, "They'll save the spotted owl, but what about Indian people and our ancient ceremonies?" We were talking about saving the old growth forests. I have since realized that with the old trees there are always Indian people and their spiritual ways tied in when the cuts are made. It is ecocide and genocide.

Making contact with Indian people can be even more difficult than i have found it to be as a racemixer interacting with a Christian Identity adherent. A profound breach of trust has occurred, one race over the other only persistence and irrevocable commitment can hope to overcome it. It is crucial for people of conscience to assess the scope of inclusiveness in the defense of humanity's home, take input and critiques of Indian people to heart and enact authentic means to attaining unity. Failure to do so is not only racist, but self-destructive.

Next month: Part Two has examples of specific instances and interviews with the lessens to be learned for loggers and environmentalists about each other and about Natives.

(Iraq, Continued)

southern Iraq. The southern no-fly zone was extended by decree of the U.S. President with no international consultation, let alone the fig leaf of a U.S. mandate. Targets were in the south, even though the fighting was in the north; mostly air-defense sites, even though ground forces had staged the Irbil-area operations.

When the Administration lamely explained that the intent was to neutralize Iraq's air defense so as to make patrolling the southern no-fly zone safer for U.S. and allied pilots, it was obvious that the real concern has always been oil, not the safety of the Kurds. The strikes were "to protect our national interest," said officials, and that means "to protect the free flow of oil and profits through the Persian Gulf." Despite the humanitarian lip service and the fledgling insurgency, oil has always been the priority in U.S. policy.

And when Iraqi forces actually had the nerve to light up and fire at U.S. aircraft illegally flying over their country, Uncle Sam's knuckles went white on the hilt of his saber. "We're not playing games," snarled the Secretary of Defense, William Perry. "We didn't go far enough," pouted Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). "It's time to get rid of Saddam," David Hackworth growled in the pages of *Newsweek*.

B-52 bombers, Stealth fighters, aircraft carriers and thousands of troops were immediately ordered to the region. There was no attempt at negotiation with the Iraqis. There was no international consensus, no domestic debate. The matter was not referred to the United Nations. Driven by election year politics, Clinton didn't bother to ask Kuwait for basing rights before dispatching the troops, which was eventually, reluctantly given. Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia refused to support the buildup because they disagree with it and hadn't been fully consulted.

When Secretary of State Warren Christopher finally appeared, on *Meet the Press*, he dismissed a diplomatic solution. "Although we do have some contacts through the U.N. and through the Polish Embassy in Baghdad, I really don't think there's anything to talk about," he said. "Saddam Hussein knows what he has to do."

Well, I know what I have to do,

I have to vehemently protest this wrong, dangerous, immoral, hypocritical policy. Now, and in November, or until it ends.

Around the world, American policy is debated and denounced.

In Turkey, Kurds and Iraqis employed by the West settle into refugee camps, a fortunate few.

In Washington D.C., in an act of monumental cowardice, Clinton signs the ban on same gender marriages into law. No sunny, camera-filled South Lawn ceremony this time, just a midnight stroke of the pen aboard Air Force One.

And in Thurston County, Sandra Romero finds new strength with old friends, with her eyes on the prize.

(Thelma, Continued)

of the Republican House had a huge piece in there for childcare and job training. I don't know where it ran into snafu or where it died, but assuring welfare assistance to the needy is important. When we see how welfare has grown and expanded, when I look at some the numbers of our citizens that have been months and years trying to get one penny going through hoops and through red tape. Something is wrong with the system. Something's wrong with the system when that's the way it has been dispensing the monies. And when we see this huge welfare bill, we need to really understand what constitutes that. Children and our elderly and disabled and incapacitated citizens that need help, absolutely. But we know there are many, many, more on the welfare roles above and beyond a definition of need. People have learned to play the system, people have learned to use the system, and that is what has skyrocketed and really has impacted and affected the attitudes of Americans in general to the Welfare movement.

Do you favor "takings legislation" which would compensate property owners for wetland and other environmental set-aside requirements?

Yes, I do favor.

In the last initiative around this, the citizens of the state voted it down. They saw themselves as taking on the tax burden of compensating these property owners and you are in favor of that?

You see, there are more property owners that fall in this category than people think. When you start thinking about all the different pieces of real estate that has been ruled wetland, the definition of what constitutes wetland is so broad and so general I think that people are blown away when they realize what it means. A lot of people think its swamp and visible wetness, but the definition of a wetland in this state would impact so many property owners. The environmental set-aside requirement has gone too far at the expense of people, at the expense of the economic impact of what it really means. We have to find a balance between the environment and people and the species and not be on the extreme as some of these initiatives and different movements have been.

Are you in favor of privatizing prisons? Do you think prison labor should be used in profit-making ventures, such as telemarketing?

Privatizing prison, yes. As a private sector business person, I'm generally in favor of privatizing. When we look at the price tag at what it costs the people of the state of Washington to run its prison system, some $50,000 a year per prison inmate, and we have to struggle and scrap to come up with some $3,000 a year per kid in school. What are some of the things leading into such a high price tag. In those cases where privatizing can show that the common good is still being served more efficiently, more productivity is being produced and at a better price, I'm for it. If it means prisons, so be it.

If we are clear as to what the purpose of prisons are, what we want to see happen (humane treatment of inmates, remedial education, job training and those kinds of things reducing the recidivism rates), if we have a clearly stated criteria for what we want to accomplish in our prison system and a private sector business or person or individual can show they can do it cheaper, better, faster, I'm all for it. But there has to be some standards and some measurements to make sure that certain things are happening.

What about the use of prisoners as labor such as telemarketing or data entering for earning profit?

The up side of it is that you have a cheap labor source and the down side would be that it displaces people in the private sector on the outside.

That's been going on a for long time. They have been stamping out license plates and building furniture, there's a whole prison industry.

Are you in favor of expanding that?

It depends on the condition under which it is happening. If it is putting idle prisoners to work, if they are learning something, if it is part of something that's going to help them when they get out, I don't necessarily see misuse of prisoners.

Would you support paying them a standard wage?

No, no I would not unless we turn around and charge them rent.

But if they were then to use their paychecks to pay for rent et al...?

Rent check, food bill, utilities. You pro rate out the impact on the system to their daily existence, I mean they are living a pretty plush life. They don't have to worry about their lights being turned off, they've got clean linen coming in, the food's going to be there three squares a day unless they're in solitary confinement. There's a whole lot of people on the outside who don't have that luxury.

How would you define our transportation problems? What should we do to resolve them?

Crowded, gridlocked, no foresight, mishmash, no vision and we have what we have. Mass transit is zilch in the Puget Sound area, state of Washington. We've known for the last twenty, thirty years this onslaught of people coming into this area. It is a hindrance to economic growth and development. It is dictating where people live, where people work, it's a deterrent to a lot of things. We have done battle over extra runways with the airport. We are living here in the capital city with no airport service. Even as you talk about the rapid transit link from Canada to whatever, it was stopping in Tacoma, it wasn't even coming to the Capital. Something is wrong. So I think the transportation system has been neglected so long that the problems now carry such a huge, huge, huge price tag,it would take so long to come up with any other way of doing anything.

I've been reading about the need for a ferry system from Olympia to Seattle just to bypass I-5 with all the traffic. That should have been visionary years ago. So here we are now with every thing costing three or four times more than they would have ten or fifteen years ago. So the problems are numerous and I don't know what we need to do to resolve them, but first of all we need a long range comprehensive transportation plan for this state so that the right hand know what the left hand is doing Whether it is by land, sea or air it all needs to be carefully thought out in a comprehensive, strategic kind of way and we get on with putting something in place because it is not getting any better, it's getting worse. The longer we talk about it the worse the problem gets.

With or Against Nature?

Honoring the Wise Old Woman

Zae Zatoon, PH.D

We live in an ageist, sexist culture that misrepresents female power and breeds fear of decrepitude. For thousands of years, we have judged women by their value generally as sex objects and promoted the attitude that aging is undesirable "until you consider the alternative". The degree to which we discredit the feminine and label our elderly as "useless" and "dried up"indicates how far we have come from honoring the Earth, our bodies, and all forms of life.

At the current rate of human activity, roughly one hundred wildlife species become extinct daily. Land and mineral developers ravage four acres of the world's rain forests every 1.4 seconds. If we are to survive as a species without destroying all of earthly life with us, we must revere the interconnectedness of all life and dignify the natural cycles of birth, growth, death, and rebirth.

the Great Mother

Up until about 4,000 years ago, men and women throughout the world lived in equal partnership rather than domination. People worshipped the Supreme Deity as the Earth in female form giving birth to all life. They honored women for the ability to give and sustain life. Women served as the mothers and co-rulers of civilization.

The latest interpretations of the archaeological record indicate that these were extremely peaceful times. There was a marked absence of fortifications and other accoutrements of war. Men and women appreciated all life as having a single, shared source and as being a gift of the Earth, her mysteries, and the cosmic cycles of the moon and the seasons.

Women and their daughters lived in communal family groups which maintained homes and cared for prepubescent children. They originated the arts along with the survival skills of planting, medicine, tool-making, and domestication of animals. During their sacred "red time", menstruating women consulted their dreams as oracles and received spiritual wisdom for the clan.

Stone carvings of open-legged female figures graced ancient entry ways and emphasized the importance of woman's fertility and protection. Reflecting the inspirational quality of the Divine Feminine within each of us, they reminded all who passed between their legs that the vulva is the literal gateway of life.

In reaching across the threshold of death to bring new souls to life, women in childbirth epitomized bravery and fearlessness. Some scholars maintain that birth and menstrual blood was the first blood on the altar. Demanding rituals inspired men to match the courage of birthing women; blood sacrifices merely imitated woman's natural flow.

Because men and women were not monogamous in these times, family inheritance was matrilineal. Fatherhood was uncertain. The role of the father in the reproduction process, although often apparent to women, was usually an unexplained enigma to the men.

Fueled by gender-specific hormonal differences, and not constrained by pregnancy or child care, men had more time, energy, and aggression to channel than their female counterparts. After puberty, male offspring moved in all-male communal groups, which became progressively more mobile.

Due to the harshness of certain environments, men tended to focus on survival and became increasingly more separate from the female clusters. Perhaps because of drought, or in a place where farming and gathering failed to produce enough to feed the people, they relied more and more upon hunting and animal flesh for their food supply.

the Hunter God

About 4,000 years ago in the central Asian steppes, following a period of drought which added to the severity of this already harsh environment, there was an acute rise in the use of the horse, the lance, and the bow and arrow to pursue game. Eurasian horsemen rode further distances away from the predominantly female family groups and removed themselves for longer periods of time from the balance of female energy.

Not able to rival women in the capacity to begin life, they discovered the sense of power that comes from ending it. First in killing animals for food, then in competing over hunting skills, and finally in overpowering other human beings, they began to worship the force of dominance over nature.

As mounted Eurasians moved westward across Europe, they became increasingly more warlike. The peaceful matriarchies and the non-violent men in them were no match for the fierce barbaric nomads. A new patriarchal hierarchy developed which denied natural law, the oneness of life, and the goddess as planet and birthgiver.

With the escalation of killing, rape, incest, and slavery prevailed. Patriarchal chieftains subjugated women to the role of possessions and bound each to a single man. They forced willing and unwilling males into aggressive dominance and reduced the value of a female to that of caregiver and bearer of male children. Women lost their position as co-rulers of civilization. The goddess became "the God".

As centuries passed, Judaism declared that women had no souls. By law, women had to remain silent, passive, and dependent upon their fathers or husbands. With the papal subjugation of Christianity, women could not legally own anything; they did not even have control over their own bodies or their destinies.

During the Inquisition of the fourteenth through seventeenth centuries, the Church waged an all-out war against women. Most of the estimated nine million people who were burned to death as witches were impoverished women, post-menopausal women, and women whose beauty or intelligence was a threat to patriarchal supremacy. Many pre-pubescent women were also killed.

In a society that glamorizes bloodshed and ignores the menstrual cycle (except as a social or medical problem), we have trained men to fear women's sexuality and women to hide it.

The very word for female, *femina*, meant "lack of faith" in those days. Subject to a ruling system which held women as the source of world evil, anyone who attended a Sabbat, practiced the ancient healing arts, or kept a pet which might be her familiar, risked death personally, and the death or total impoverishment of her family. There were no civil rights - only accusation, presumed guilt, torture, death, and the confiscation of property.

Return to Goddess

With the abolition of slavery, the women's suffrage movement, and the peace and civil rights movements of more recent generations, both men and women have been gradually getting in touch with their own female energy and rejecting the non-egalitarian doctrines of patriarchal rule. As increasing numbers of baby-boomers are sporting wrinkles and sprouting grey hair, more people are risking to stand in the truth as they see it and to redefine what ageing looks like, what it feels like, and what it needs to be.

To honor the source of all life and to take the powerful initiation into fulfilling our true potential, we must push past our tangled history of outworn beliefs. Fears that we are going to develop Alzheimer's, that our hearts are going to give out, and that older people have to give up their sex lives do not have to govern our enthusiasm for life.

Only in this century has life expectancy increased from 46 to 80. As people start living one-third to one-half of their lives beyond their reproductive years, we desperately need post-menopausal icons to model an ever-changing ideal.

Post-menopausal women, though their figures may betray the effects of gravity, reflect the landscape of the earth in their bodies. Their unique combination of strength and gentleness is a virtue toward which most people strive. Grounded in wisdom, unattractive to the careless eye, these women represent the mystery of female power - that sacred and special knowledge about life which only women share.

Steeped in the experience of constant seeking, they have lived for many years in the light of their souls; and they have drawn for most of those years on the knowledge of the ever-renewing cycles. This frequently deepens and expands their eroticism and intelligence.

In the Iroquois Confederacy (a social alliance whose treaty served as the skeletal document for the United States Constitution, the stature of women in the community increased with age. Every major decision, including the choice of chiefs, had to be run past the post-menopausal women for their approval. The grandmothers of the tribe had the final say.

Today, older women comprise the fastest-growing segment of the population. The desecration of their compassion and sensuality is a statement of our cultural separation from understanding the Earth as a living organism and all life as sacred and interdependent.

In a society that glamorizes bloodshed and ignores the menstrual cycle (except as a social or medical problem), we have trained men to fear women's sexuality and women to hide it. Failing to trust ourselves or the cyclic rhythm of the ebb and flow, the waxing and the waning, the fullness and the emptiness, we find ourselves in an exhausting self-defeating struggle against the laws of the universe. We forget that all things return, and that differences in age and gender encompass a natural stability.

If we are to survive the environmental impact of our imbalanced, fear-ridden ancestry, we must rely on the council of older women to guide us in a renewed understanding. As each of us moves toward and experiences the current planetary changes in our own lives, it is crucial to remember ourselves as children of the Earth and to temper our behavior accordingly.

We cannot defy natural law and drain the Earth of her resources without annihilating all of life with us. To stop systematically destroying our world-body and the wide spectrum of life on this planet, we must restore the dignity of the post-menopausal woman and find refuge in her zest and wisdom.

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

OCTOBER 1996 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

1 Homelessness & War In Iraq

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5 From The Inside Out Truth Inc. & Organized Crime

7 Political Voting With Your Dollar

8-9 Works In Progress Candidate Interviews

Thelma Jackson & Sandra Romero

(Homeless, Continued)

funct First Baptist Church Temporary men's shelter, was almost singlehandedly spearheaded and managed by Sue Grant of B&R since last December. The Mission has been the longest running replacement to the First Baptist Shelter since it closed on March 1, 1994, after providing 16 months of service. The ensuing controversy over the city's inability to find a replacement to the First Baptist Church shelter led to a prolonged encampment in Sylvester Park downtown by the homeless and their supporters.

This action spurred LIHI's intervention and the creation of the Fleetwood building apartments, a 43 unit, single residency, low income facility which is scheduled to open October of next year. But a permanent alternative to the Salvation Army shelter has yet to be established.

The second half of the HTF meeting was taken up with discussing how Olympia could remain competitive for next year's federal funding cycle. Ishbel Dickens of LIHI explained that eligibility was based on how closely any prospective homeless program met HUD's "Continuum of Care" guidelines. Briefly, these guidelines discourage "crisis management" solutions, and encourage community-wide, inclusive coordination of everyone in the housing process; real estate brokers, bankers, social service providers, elected officials, and the homeless themselves. The problem facing Olympia is this: the city and its surrounding communities have already gone through the lengthy and contentious *inclusive* process outlined above, which led to an exhaustive Housing Task Force report. However, this report, more commonly referred to as the "blue book," was researched and collated in 1993-4, making its competitiveness with other localities vying for funding questionable.

So while the HTF appears to be forever mired in planning rather than implementation, it cannot implement anything until it receives funding, which it is not likely to get without more planning. This Catch-22 has, some would argue, continued since the closing of the First Baptist Shelter.

What next?

Presently, the "blue book" is undergoing a close scrutiny by John Eppler of the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (DCTED). He will make recommendations as to how much of a facelift it needs to meet HUD guidelines and report back to the HTF early this month. The first step of the funding trek is already under way, however. A subcommittee composed of Kori Wilder, Vince Brown, Neil McClanahan, Randy Shaw, Jill Lewis, and Maureen Hill was hastily formed to fill out a "Continuum of Care Technical Assistance" application" due in to DCTED by the 15th of this month. The completed application for funding to HUD is due by February 15th, 1997.

As far as addressing shelter needs for this winter, however, it's anybody's guess. How many more homeless will we allow to die in parked cars or in the open? The temperature's dropping and time is running out. *Works in Progress* urges you to keep an eye open for the upcoming Homeless Services Committee meeting. Commit to being there and making your voice heard. Together, we CAN stop this insanity once and for all.

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